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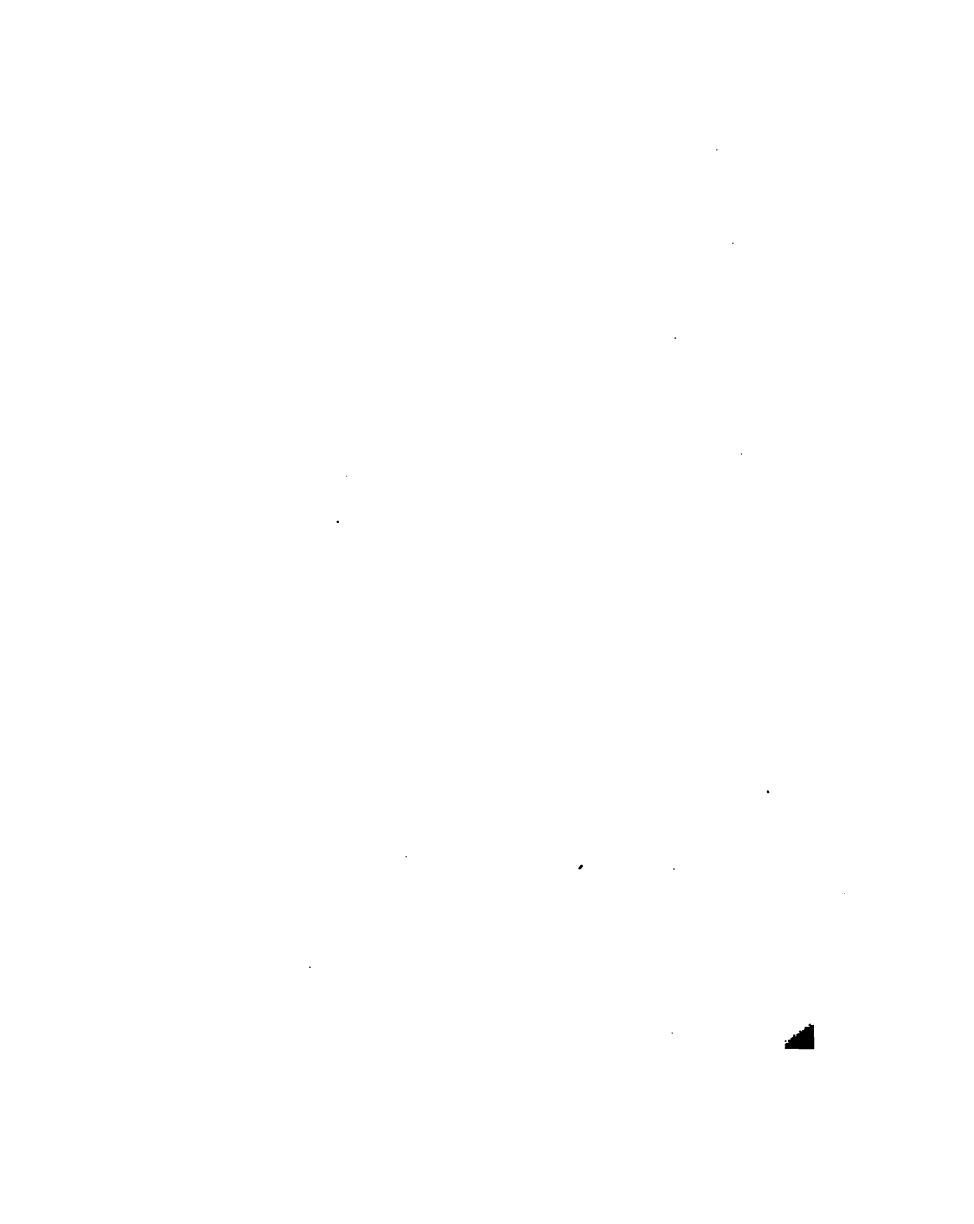
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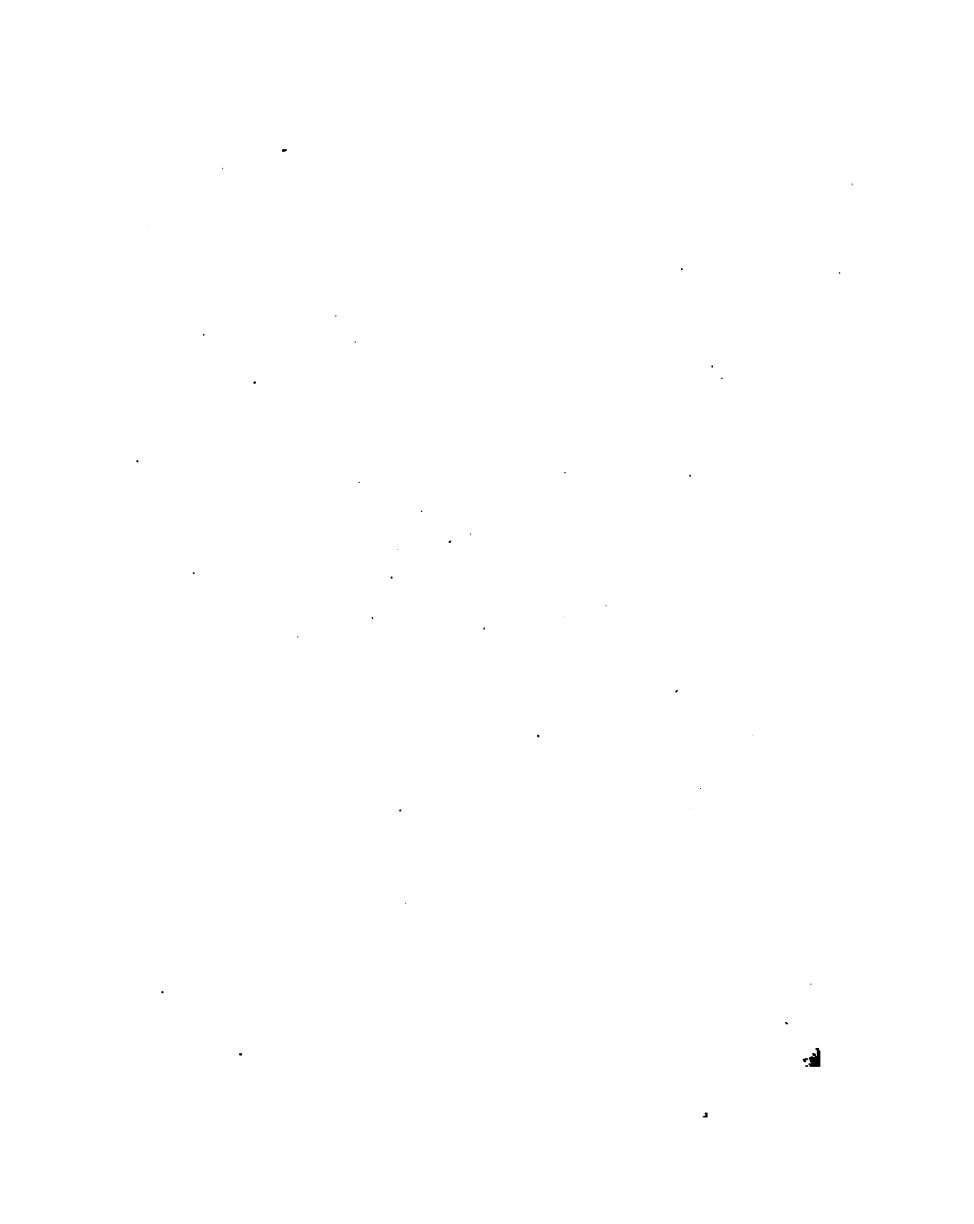


















BY ALFRED AYRES.

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# SOME ILL-USED WORDS

BY

ALFRED AYRES

AUTHOR OF

THE ORTHOËPIST, THE VERBALIST, ACTING AND ACTORS,  
THE MENTOR, THE ESSENTIALS OF ELOCUTION, ETC.

+

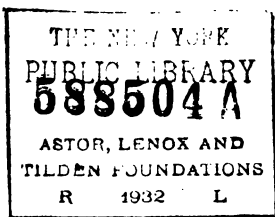
As there is never but one best way, so there is never but one best word



THE  
VERBALIST  
AND  
ACTORS

C.

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D. APPLETON AND COMPANY  
1901



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*Every writer should aim to preserve the individuality of the words he uses; he should not allow any word to trench on the domain of any other word. This he should do in the interest of clearness; in this way only can he avoid ambiguity. The so-called "new meanings" are the product either of a restricted vocabulary or of a lack of painstaking.*

*Familiarity with the examples here gathered should do something, it would seem, toward mending the ways of the careless.*



## PREFACE

---

THIS book is levelled, specially, at some half dozen errors that are made by wellnigh every one that uses the English language.

Who, for example, does not misuse the auxiliary verbs, and the words *anticipate*, *anxious*, *financial*, and *hurry*; and who does not over-use the words *former* and *latter*? Then who does not use a certain ponderous locution in which a noun is made to do duty as a verb? And then there are not a few that persist in using that repulsive construction in which there are two nominatives and only one verb?

Something about these words and phrases, and some little besides, is what herein will be found.

A. A.

NEW YORK, *January, 1901.*





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## SOME ILL-USED WORDS

---

### THE AUXILIARIES

THE misuse of the auxiliary verbs is wellnigh universal.

The errors are made in using *will* for *shall* and *would* for *should*.

The auxiliaries are most misused in indirect discourse; there, they are more frequently used incorrectly than correctly. Properly, thus: "He said he *should* be glad to see you." "They think they *shall* be here to-morrow." "He thinks he *shall* soon be well." "They are confident they *shall* get it." We see *will* more frequently in sentences like these than *shall*.

In The Verbalist, page 252, the auxiliaries are treated with tolerable fulness.

The book was just then published and was very badly printed. When I got through I

thought I *would* [should] never see again.—  
*Charles A. Dana.*

---

Before leaving City Hall the chief marshal said he *would* [should] write the Mayor a letter explaining the whole matter.

---

Governor Roosevelt said that he *would* [should] be very glad to have the honor of shaking hands with the members of the congregation.

---

If that were all that he meant he would not be supporting it, and I *would* [should] not be taking the trouble to oppose it. If everything in the world be increased 10 per cent in value, why we *would* [should] pay 10 per cent in addition for what we *would* [should] buy and we *would* [should] get 10 per cent more for what we *would* [should] sell, and we *would* [should] be exactly in the same place we *occupied* [were in] before.—*Bourke Cockran as reported in the New York Sun.*

---

Chairman Hanna of the National Republican Committee said he *would* [should] have nothing to add to the statement issued last night.

---

When I come back to New York City, after my trip through the State, I *will* [shall] be able

to judge better what the New York vote will be. The Democratic leaders of this State have assured me that I *will* [shall] carry New York by a comfortable majority.

---

The morning after this dinner Minister Taylor sent to the Spanish Foreign Office a peremptory notification that unless the communication to the Ambassadors was instantly withdrawn he *would* [should] demand his passports and return to Washington.—*New York Sun*.

---

If he *were* [should be] elected we *would* [should] have a President with all a President's influence in the Senate and in the House, determined by every means in his power to throw the exchanges of the country into chaos.

---

Archbishop Cranmer, the first primate of the English Church, said in his Catechism: "If we should have heathen parents and die without baptism, we *would* [should] be damned everlastingly."

---

"Let me see," said Mrs. Doble, reflectively; "I have promised to give up sugar, sweets and pastries of all sorts, cream, jellies—really everything I like best. It's dreadful, isn't it? We *will* [shall] not be so happy, but we *will* [shall] grow thin."

We *will* [shall] sweep the country from one end to the other and the Republicans will not be able to carry eight States in the Union.—*John P. Altgeld*.

---

She would not say to-night whether she *would* [should] or *would* [should] not comply with the provisions of the will. The Sister Superior thought Miss Jewell would enter the sisterhood regardless of family opposition.

---

“I don’t see, just at present, that I *will* [shall] need to resort to force to keep *me* [myself] in office.” If this be not the language of revolt, we *would* [should] like to know what it is.

---

I believe it should be allowed to carry out any reasonable tariff policy without obstruction. If it brings prosperity we *will* [shall] all be content. If it does not we *will* [shall] all know that some other remedy is required, and by the process of elimination [we] *will* [shall] come down to the only radical cure. Let tariff legislation be enacted immediately and we *will* [shall] have a chance to test the sentiments of the country on the silver question alone, unembarrassed by tariff.—*New York Evening Sun*.

---

With this accomplished the Chicago scientist believes that he *will* [shall] have a fairly accurate idea of how many years it took the whole limestone stratum to accumulate.

I assert that aggregated capital is the necessary and natural handmaid of advancing commerce; that we *would* [should] never have reached the colossal developed condition in which we find ourselves if the instrumentalities of aggregated wealth had not aided it.

---

Mr. Bryan is just as resolute and uncompromising an advocate of free silver to-day as [he was] in the days immediately following his defeat in 1896, when he said that if everybody else abandoned the cause he *would* [should] be found fighting for it with his last breath.

Neither a promise nor determination, simply future action.

---

Chairman Jones serves notice on the supporters of President McKinley that "we have won the fight, and, by Heaven, we *will* not be defrauded out of our victory by the chicanery of election judges."

Determination, hence correct.

---

President Eliot's mind made up. He says he won't support McKinley, but doesn't know how he *will* [shall] vote.

---

He added that, although he believed that he *would* [should] carry his own State by 20,000, he had been informed that his plurality in Nebraska would be 50,000.



Some three summers ago Charles Dudley Warner was sitting on the balcony of a club overlooking Madison Square taking his afternoon coffee; there had been some talk of the *club* [club's] moving uptown. Mr. Warner said, in his quiet way: "Ten years from now they will be sorry they moved uptown. I *will* [shall] be sorry, too. Hold on, no I won't, for I *will* [shall] be dead. Yes, but I *will* [shall] be sorry any way."

---

When the two men were arrested, Frederick B. House, their attorney, said that he *would* [should] have no difficulty in getting bail for them.

---

Second, what prosperity we have came in spite of the Republican party. If the Republican party had had its way we *would* [should] have had no prosperity.

---

He said to-day that he *would* [should] remain in Lincoln and devote his time to magazine and special writing and to lecturing. He said he had not the least idea of retiring from politics, and that whether as a leader or [as] a private he proposed to continue his labors *on* [in?] behalf of Democracy.

---

An engineer working for the market may find means to make a fortune. Of course, in the vast majority of cases he does not, but he always hopes he *will* [shall].

I have a lot of very important business to attend to that requires all my time at present and for several weeks to come, and I *should* be obliged to neglect it if I *should* go to Chicago. Besides, my presence at the Convention would really do no good. The free-silver people seem to have about everything their own way, and, as I *should* stand by the resolutions of our State Convention and vote for a sound-money platform and sound-money candidates, I *should* stand with the minority in a hopeless and embarrassing position.

It would seem from this paragraph, that the Baltimore correspondent of the New York Sun knows how to use his auxiliaries. He's one in a thousand.

---

We *will* [shall] have the finger of scorn pointed at us by all other nations, and justly, too, for we *will* [shall] be dishonest and dishonorable.

---

Mr. House was asked if he *would* [should] begin habeas corpus proceedings to-day for his clients and he replied:

"I don't think I *will* [shall]. Probably our only work to-day will be to get the prisoners out on bail."

---

Young Vickery was placed hors *du* [de] combat. Mrs. Vickery declared that she *would* never

be driven by a rooster—so sallied forth to meet her adversary.

Determination, hence correct.

---

We have broken up his alibi, we *will* [shall] connect him with the bloody finger marks on the door, and we *will* [shall] tell one other thing that will absolutely convince a jury of his guilt.

---

According to report President Marroquin has decided not to accept the Atalanta. Señor Isaza said he *would* [should] not act in this regard until he had received full instructions from President Marroquin.

---

We *would* [should] simply take our present North Atlantic fleet and drive them from Cuban waters. We *would* [should] still require the other squadrons in foreign ports.—*New York Evening Sun*.

---

I *will* [shall] remain with my family in the city a couple of days, then I *will* [shall] go on to Washington.

---

Israel Ludlow, a lawyer, who represents the negroes *who* [that] have filed claims, said this morning that he *would* [should] file four additional claims against the city to-day.

"No, my lord," was the reply of the aged prisoner; "this is getting a trifle monotonous. I *would* [should] like to know how a fellow can manage to please you judges. When I was only seventeen I got three years, and the judge said I ought to be ashamed of myself stealing at my age. When I was forty I got five years, and the judge said it was a shame that a man in his very best years should steal. And now, when I am seventy years of age, here you come and tell me the same old story. Now, I *would* [should] like to know what year of a man's life is the right one, according to your notion?"

---

There were several men in different parts of the audience who suggested that they *would* [should] like to hear about free silver, but there was no opportunity to ask the speaker questions.

---

If we assert sovereignty over the Filipinos we *will* [shall] have to defend that sovereignty by force, and the Filipinos will be our enemies.

---

"A paper," said the Senator, growing personal, "said that I was interested in steel trusts. I *would* [should] like to know where the information was obtained. I want to know what steel trust I am in."

---

What am I going to do? Why, try *and* [to] cure the rheumatism, of course. Oh, you mean in

a professional way! Why, I'm under contract to Mr. Daniel Frohman. I *will* [shall] be a permanent member of his stock company at Daly's Theatre and *will* [shall] open there on November 26th in The Man of Forty. I *will* [shall] go to Baltimore next week to begin rehearsals with the company.

---

I won't say that I *wouldn't like to have married him* [should not have liked to marry him] because I *would* [should], but you see there was no way out of the Gray marriage.

---

Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff finally declines a renomination. He tells Mr. Platt that he can not accept, but *would* [should] like to be chairman of the State committee. Mr. Platt says that *he* [Woodruff] will not be chairman of the committee, and that Horace White will probably be nominated for Lieutenant Governor.

Send your reader hunting antecedents only when you can not well avoid it.

---

My husband was determined that I should accept his offer, and I—well, I was crazy to go, but I weighed what I *would* [should] gain against what I *would* [should] lose.—A. E. B. in the *Dramatic Mirror*.

---

I thought you said a short time ago that you *would* [should] not recover the use of your voice until a certain person had been elected.

Presumably, this was not a case of determination.

---

Without any desire to bring politics into the church, he said that he *would* [should] like to have Governor Roosevelt make an address to the people.

---

We *will* [shall] have headquarters in the future at 246 West Fifty-third Street, where we *will* [shall] meet every Thursday evening.

---

Mrs. Leslie said that although she had given up part of her stock without consideration and was a minority holder, she did not intend to be frozen out altogether, and that she *would* [should] call on Mr. Colver for an explanation.

---

What will Cleveland say when Mrs. Dominis *remarks* [says] to him: "But for your encouragement I *would* [should] have accepted the revolution as an accomplished fact, and *would* [should] be now *in the enjoyment of* [enjoying] a substantial pension"?—*New York Sun*.

---

Better re-use *say* than to use *remark* as it is here used.

---

The fact of the matter is, that instead of *us* [our] owing either of them, they have quite a little of our money, which we *would* [should] be very happy to get back.—*New York Sun*.

Where *would* [should] we be without a navy? If we had no navy we might presently find the Powers of Europe considering us as they are at present considering the Empire of China.

---

*Will* [shall] you hold any important conferences?

I *will* [shall] have several consultations with leading Republicans. *Will* [shall] likely meet Senators Sherman, Quay, Proctor, and others. Can not say who the others will probably be.—*New York Sun*.

---

So far as this committee is concerned, we feel something like the Methodist minister who shouted downstairs to the burglar to go ahead and see if he could find anything, and if *so* [he could] he *would* [should] be glad to divvy with him.

---

Mr. Croker's gaze sank to the floor as he said: "I am disappointed. I never [have] had a greater disappointment. I felt sure that we *would* [should] win—that Bryan would win. But it can't be helped. You can never tell."

---

Flossie is six years old. "Mamma," she asked one day, "if I get married *will* [shall] I have a husband like papa?"

"Yes," replied the mother, with an amused smile.

"And if I don't get married, *will* [shall] I have to be an old maid like Aunt Kate?"

"Yes, Flossie."

"Mamma," she said, after a short pause, "it's a tough world for us women, ain't it?"

---

I believe that we are now in a better position to wage a successful contest against imperialism than we *would* [should] have been had the treaty been rejected.

---

Mr. Van Wyckle says in case of a strike he *will* [shall] abandon his collieries.

---

I have been for long years a Democrat, but at the last presidential election [I] voted for McKinley. I *will* [shall] vote for *him* [McKinley] again. Mr. Bryan is the incarnation of economic heresies.

The diction is strengthened by re-using *McKinley*.

---

A Democrat *who* [that] had learned the lesson of experience in the last three years and a half asked a friend of his how he was going to vote this year. He said: "I'm going to vote for Bryan, of course." The Democrat asked "Why?" Then the friend said: "They told me four years ago that if I would vote for Bryan we *would* [should] have four years of good times; and haven't we had it?"



He had adopted the idea that he *would* [should] like to work outdoors.—*Charles A. Dana.*

---

Judge John A. Grow, who has heretofore been a Democrat, informed National Republican Committeeman Frederick S. Gibbs yesterday in a letter that he could no longer act with that party, but *would* [should] vote the straight Republican ticket this fall.

---

If we follow down the official chronologies to 499 A. D. we *will* [shall] find an account of one Hwui Shan, who in that year returned to China.

---

Colonel Gardiner and General Burnett told Magistrate Flammer that they *would* [should] like to have his examination postponed until an agreement had been reached about the jurisdiction.

---

I *will* [shall] have it so arranged that it can be flooded with water, making a stagecraft vessel look mighty realistic. If necessary I *will* [shall] be able to run a locomotive on that stage.

---

It was said that he had expressed the opinion that he could not take a senatorship during the coming four years because he *would* [should] "be a very busy man."

There will be no change in the theatre's plans for the season. Miss Irwin will stay there as long as it is profitable to *do so* [stay]. Then Amelia Bingham will come in with her proposed dramatic stock company. Miss Irwin said last night, in reference to the future policy of the house: "I *will* [shall] form a stock company of well-known actors and *will* [shall] play all or the greater part of each year at my theatre. I *will* [shall] open next September for a preliminary season of revivals. I *will* [shall] get as many of the original casts as possible. I *will* [shall] then produce one or two new plays."

---

The story of the defendant is different. Speaking of the action of the other, he said: "If he had touched me on the shoulder and asked me to move, I *would* [should] have *done so* [moved]."

---

"*Will* [shall] you be able to convince the public," it was asked, "that this crusade of Tammany's is not a mere bluff, set on foot to offset the Bishop Potter crusade?"

---

The chief says he *will* [shall] be able to show that a four-seat carriage was hired from Stowcroft, and that he drove the men to the Goffle Road.

---

We concluded that if we could organize ourselves on his system, we *would* [should] be sure

of making [to make] a greater impression on intelligent people.—*Charles A. Dana.*

---

“Gentlemen,” said Colonel Bryan, *smilingly* [smiling], “if I were superstitious I *would* [should] look upon the breaking of this looking-glass as an ill omen.”

---

Miss Bacon herself laughingly remarked that she thought it likely that she *would* [should] marry an American.

---

I *shall* bring a suit for damages against the city and in all probability *will* [shall] file a complaint with the police commissioners.

This speaker—or reporter—evidently thinks *shall* and *will* are interchangeable.

---

Keenly aware, as we are, of the serious responsibilities *which* [that] a political party owes to the State, we *will* [shall] strive to shape our action in accordance with the requirements of public interest.

---

“Unfortunately while money talks all that talks is not money.”

“Why do you say ‘unfortunately’?” she asked.

“Because if that were so,” he answered, “I *would* [should] be married to a fabulous fortune.”

Personally I *would* [should] like at least once a week to get out from under the incubus of ordinary obligation and to yield myself up intellectually and emotionally to the domination of dramatic power.—*The Rev. Dr. Parkhurst.*

---

He said he *would* [should] prefer State banks founded on a specie basis to national banks, no matter how good the system, founded on the credit of the Government.

---

He intimated, however, that he had been to Police Headquarters about the case, and *would* [should] probably go there again.

---

You know that with the slightest prospect of a foreign war we *would* [should] suspend gold payments and go either to a silver or [to] a paper basis at once.

---

I *would* [should] like to see them try it. I *would* [should] like to see the Police Board subpoena me to give testimony against accused policemen. I *would* [should] simply refuse to honor the summons.—*Bishop Potter as reported by the New York Herald.*

---

After he had *plead* [pleaded] guilty he thought mercy would be shown him—went into the courtroom full of confidence that he *would* [should] be leniently dealt with.—*New York Evening Sun.*

A large corporation is organized by charter to conduct business and not politics, and we *will* [shall] try to see to it that they attend to their own business and allow their employees to *do the same* [attend to theirs].

---

I *would* [should] like to have Bryan distinguish between the trusts. Whenever trusts amenable to law have encountered the law they have suffered. Trusts contrary to the law can not stand.

---

We *will* [shall] export no goods and we *will* [shall] import from foreign lands all the goods we use; thus will ruin, want and misery be with us.

---

They deny that there is any possibility that they *will* [shall] receive such treatment if once they receive the consent of the Sultan to settle in Palestine.

---

All the contest now, apparently, is to show not that the Filipinos will be injured by annexation to our country, but that we ourselves *will* [shall] thereby lose our liberties. Even if we intended to hold the Philippines in subjection would it follow that we *would* [should] be slaves?

---

*Will* [shall] I do any speaking here? Well, I may make a few remarks at noonday meetings, but I have no speaking engagements.

But at the bottom of it all was confidence, produced by the assurance that we *would* [should] be spared the degradation of a debased currency and that the gold standard would be maintained.

---

He said he *would* [should] rather have, at the beginning of a campaign, the wife than the husband on his side.—*New York Sun*.

---

He said that if I did so, I *would* [should] be doing him an everlasting favor, for he hoped to secure a place with the company when it was formed.

---

The chief shifted the responsibility by saying that if the State Superintendent of Elections had any evidence he *would* [should] be glad to receive it and to act upon it.

---

We *will* [shall] continue on to control our schools and teach our children the history of that period as it was, not as these partisans who still hate us have it.

---

A few minutes after this conversation the young woman came out, entered a brougham that was standing in front of the house and drove away. She left word with her servant that she *would* [should] not be back until evening.

He refused to take an active part in the campaign, but he announced that he *would* [should] vote for Bryan.—*New York Sun*.

---

E. L. Mordecai, a broker, of 52 Broadway, said that he had \$9,750 that he *would* [should] like to bet on the election.

---

I think I *will* [shall] make it as *near* [nearly] like the Drury Lane Theatre in London as possible, but of course everything will be upon a much larger scale.

---

I am glad I came to-night, although I felt, after hearing two such speakers as Mr. Dalzell and Mr. Barrett, that I *would* [should] be out of place.

---

I expected to give her, and *would* [should] be compelled to *do so* [give her] by the terms of our contract, the forty performances during the season.—*New York Sun*.

---

If getting up public subscription *will* [shall] be glad to give \$1,000.—*Lipton*.

---

I *would* [should] not be surprised if McKinley carried Kentucky by 30,000 majority.

---

Queen Victoria fears she *will* [shall] not outlive 1896.—*Headline New York Sun*.

If a man wearing a shirt waist entered the dining car and ladies objected to his garb, we *would* [should] ask him to put on his coat. If he refused *to do so* [to put it on] we *would* [should] request him to wait for his dinner until the ladies left the car.

---

We have grown so accustomed to the ubiquitous speculators that we *would* [should] not be surprised to find them grouped around the gate of heaven waiting for their prey.

If these examples do nothing else, they will go a long way toward making it appear that *will* and *would* have good reason to complain of being unconscionably ill-used, since they show that *will* and *would* are continually made to do duty not only for themselves but also for their kinsmen *shall* and *should*.



## THE NOUN CONSTRUCTION

THIS is a construction that is wellnigh universally employed, and yet, in strictness, it is commonly, perhaps invariably, ungrammatical. Wordy it certainly always is.

By Noun Construction I would designate that construction that expresses action, doing, without employing a verb in any form soever; as, for example, "It tends to *the elimination of the weak and the preservation of the strong.*"—*New York Sun*, March 3, 1895.

This sentence is weak, the result of having fifty per cent more syllables than are necessary, and, to my thinking, it is ungrammatical. Its grammar is mended by changing the nouns *elimination* and *preservation* to the verbal nouns *eliminating* and *preserving*, and both grammar and rhetoric are mended by employing infinitives, which would give us, "It tends to eliminate the weak and to preserve the strong"—thirteen syllables against twenty-one.

Economics is the science that treats of the *development* [developing] of material resources, or of the *production* [producing], *preservation* [preserving], and *distribution* [distributing] of wealth and of the means and methods of living well.—*Standard Dictionary*.

The *science* of the developing and the producing; the *history* of the development and the production. It is always desirable to express the thought *absolutely*.

---

At the present stage of the canvass no occupation is less profitable than the *construction* [constructing] of tables of the electoral vote showing the probable results in November.—*N. Y. Sun*.

The act of constructing a table, which is what is here meant, is one thing; the construction, the make-up, of a table, after it has been constructed, is quite another thing. The same word should not be used to express the thought in both cases. In strictness, we must employ a verb in some form properly to express a doing. The using of nouns where verbs are required—or, I should say, perhaps, the making of nouns do verbal service—is wellnigh universal. Is it, or can it ever become, good grammar? I think not.

The special order for the opening day of the session is for the *erection* [erecting] of a bridge across the Detroit River at Detroit. Among other special orders are the house bills *to prevent* the extermination of the fur-bearing seals of Alaska, and *to reduce* [to lessen the number of] cases in which the death penalty may be inflicted.—*New York Sun*.

In the first sentence, the writer uses a noun in precisely the same manner that he uses verbs in in the second. "To reduce the cases" seems to me too elliptical. *Lessen* the number is more idiomatic than reduce the number.

---

The scheme *for the retirement of* [to retire] the greenbacks, therefore, can not furnish an issue for the Democratic party.—*New York Sun*.

Why use six syllables when three will suffice? Then, with three syllables the sentence is grammatical, which with six it is not.

---

During the past year rapid progress has been made toward *the completion of* [completing] the scheme adopted for the *erection* [erecting] and *armament* [arming] of fortifications along our sea-coast, while equal progress has been made in providing the material for submarine defence in connection with these works.—*President Cleveland*.

The Republican party claimed protection and the Democratic party silver to be the paramount issue. The people have declared in favor of protection and have given the Republican party a contract *for the restoration of* [to restore] prosperity.

---

The dukes were to receive compensation for *the resignation of* [resigning] their claims.

---

Most of the provinces were *pays d'élection*, i. e., they were divided into districts in which the *assessment* [assessing] and *collection* [collecting] of taxes were vested in royal officials.

---

The arrangements for *diffusing* education and *the establishment of* newspapers.—*New York Sun*.

Why two forms of expression in the same sentence? Why not establishing newspapers?

---

In *the consideration of* [considering] Hamlet's case, nothing should be.—*Richard Grant White*.

---

Education that is not centred on the *refinement* [refining] and *ennoblement* [ennobling] of the mind . . . is worse than the shadow.—*Dawson*.

Chief Byrnes puts at the disposal of Mayor Strong his services for the *reformation* [reforming] and *reorganization* [reorganizing] of the police force.—*New York Sun*.

Better: in reforming and reorganizing.

---

Statistics is the science that deals with the *collection* [collecting], *classification* [classifying], and *tabulation* [tabulating] of facts.—*Standard Dictionary*.

---

Mr. Iselin is giving unremitting personal care and labor to the *supervision* [supervising] and *development* [developing] of the Defender.—*New York Sun*.

---

It is merely a matter of police regulation; it will also be serviceable in the *imposition* and *collection* [imposing and collecting] of taxes.—*New York Sun*.

---

The policy of the Administration has resulted in the *establishment of* [establishing] a precedent.—*New York Sun*.

---

The *determination* [determining] of distances with a telemeter.—*Standard Dictionary*.

---

The *preparation* [preparing] of tobacco for use is called curing. It has for its purpose

the *drying* and *preservation* [preserving] of the leaf as well as the *development* [developing] of the peculiar aroma.

---

The Legislature may provide by-laws for the *supervision* [supervising], *registration* [registering], *control* [controlling], and *identification* [identifying] of all persons.

---

The slowness in the *collection* [collecting] and *circulation* [circulating] of news. [Better: in collecting and circulating news.]

---

It is not by the *consolidation* or the *concentration* of powers, but by their *distribution*, that good government is effected. [It is not by consolidating or concentrating powers, but by distributing them, that——]

---

The *indication* of an infinitive by *to* without the actual expression of the verb to which it belongs is a colloquialism. Rewritten: The indicating of an infinitive with *to* without the verb it belongs to is a colloquialism.

---

The *imposition* [imposing] of a duty on wool will help the wool business by giving it incidental protection.—*New York Sun*.

---

For above all the grievances of the miners has been pushed a greater question, the question

of whether might or right shall rule in the *settlement* [settling] of labor disputes, and on this question the operators have put themselves unqualifiedly in the wrong.

---

If this be so, it is plain that the time is by no means yet ripe *for the evacuation of* [to evacuate] Peking.

---

The Washington Star calls for the *dethronement* [dethroning] of the Empress Dowager.

---

For our own part we wish Mr. Allen would rededicate his rare talents to the *production* [producing] of books in his earlier manner.

---

No doubt Mr. Allen knows; but if there is anything to make him imagine that the *propagation* [propagating] of his dry and dreary agnosticism will make men either better or happier, he keeps that secret very closely to himself.

---

And Mr. McKinley declares that this would be the immediate effect of the *election* [electing] of Bryan.

That is, the effect of doing something.

---

Taking the city and county of New York as an example, it is found that *over* [more than]

\$20,000,000 was spent during 1899 in the *repression* [repressing] and *correction* [correcting] of crime, out of a total expenditure of about \$90,000,000. This means a crime taxation of \$6 *per capita*. An analysis of San Francisco's budget shows an average of \$5 *per capita*. In smaller cities, the average is about \$3.50 *per capita*. With these averages as a basis, Mr. Smith calculates that \$1 *per* [an or the] inhabitant in the "open country" is a conservative estimate..

The Latin preposition *per* is a good deal used in such phrases as *per* day, *per* man, *per* pound, *per* ton, and so on. In all such cases it is better to use plain English, and say a day, a man, a pound, etc. *Per* is correct before Latin nouns only; as *per annum*, *per diem*, *per cent*. In short: Never mix languages, if you can well avoid it.—*The Verbalist*, page 205.

---

No department offered less encouragement to the spirit of monopoly than the *production* [producing], *refinement* [refining], and *distribution* [distributing] of this natural oil.

---

It is possible, however, that, if Germany and Great Britain persist in retaining possession of the Chinese capital pending negotiations for the *restoration* [restoring] of order and the *settle-*



*ment* [settling] of questions in dispute, Russia and France may deem it advisable to keep a part of their forces also in Pekin.

---

The *dissolution* [dissolving] of Parliament was therefore an absolute necessity. The Government hopes that the people will send men willing to assist in *the development of* [developing] the country. The Government, by dissolving a Parliament *which* [that] did no positive work, carries out a constitutional principle.

---

From the days of the Revival of Learning authors appear to have exercised a large amount of ingenuity in *the selection of* [selecting] titles for their works.

---

In 1311 Pope Clement had *ordered the establishment of professorships* for the study of the Sacred Word; and Pius VI, in 1778, congratulated the Archbishop of Florence on his success in placing the Scriptures in the hands of the people.

Here is the very acme of awkwardness. Ordered professorships to be established; or, elliptically, established.

---

These results tended *to a restoration of* [to restore] confidence, but it was not until the defeat

of Bryan and [the] success of the party of sound money in 1896 that confidence was fully restored.

---

Every patriotic American, and every Democrat in particular, should favor expansion.

Jefferson was an expansionist, otherwise he would not have favored the *acquisition* [acquiring] of Louisiana with its foreign population which in Jefferson's time was quite as remote as the Philippines.

The *acquiring* of Louisiana was a magnificent *acquisition*.

---

The Liberal press of Great Britain have been quickest *in the recognition of* [to recognize] this fact and strongest in deploring it.

---

The malaria problem is not yet entirely solved, but these experiments certainly afford very strong confirmation of the theory that makes mosquitoes chiefly responsible for the *conveyance* [conveying] of the poison to man.

The mosquito is the *conveyance* that does the *conveying*?

---

In *the application of* [applying] that definition to religious matters it at once becomes evident that there must be a large exercise of reason before there can be any such thing as an act of faith.

People in the West can scarcely imagine how much attention is paid in Persia and elsewhere in the Orient to the *production* [producing] of a finely finished manuscript.

---

Richard H. Adams, chairman of the Committee on Buildings, Board of Education, advertised to-day for bids for the *erection* [erecting] of a building for the High School of Commerce.

---

By the treaty of Shimonoseki, May, 1895, China renounced her claim of suzerainty, and Japan began to institute reforms, such as the *division* [dividing] of the country into districts, the *raising* of revenue by taxation, the *establishment* [establishing] of Government departments, and the regular *payment* [paying] of officials.

If *raising*, why not *paying*?

---

The *collection* [collecting] of rubber, however, presents many features of interest, and deserves more extended treatment.

---

It was argued that enough laxity or careless irregularity in *the conduct of* [conducting] the office had been shown to justify the removal of the prosecuting officer of this county, and, further, that whether such *were* [was] the case or not, it would be excellent politics to assume the guilt of the defendant.

We do not need the subjunctive here; and if we did, *were* would not serve. *Were* can never, properly, be employed as a past or as a future subjunctive.

---

Secretary Hay to-day transmitted to the German Government the answer of the United States to the recent communications of Germany, in which modifications are made of the *proposals* for the *punishment* [punishing] of the Boxer leaders by the Powers as a condition precedent of peace negotiations. This first *proposal* of Germany did not meet with the approval of the United States.

Better: *Proposals to punish* the Boxer leaders. Note the circumstance that the writer says *proposal*, and not *proposition*. *Proposition* is a much misused word.

---

Special attention given to the *management* [managing] of real estate and the *collection* [collecting] and *remittance* [remitting] of rents.

---

What was left of the Democratic organization, however, assembled at Chicago in August, 1864, *for the nomination of* [to nominate] a candidate for President, and it adopted a platform denouncing the war as a "failure."

---

To the great shame of the city of New York, it is now represented in Congress by a delegation

elected in 1898, no one of the sixteen members of which could be induced to declare himself in favor of *the preservation* of [preserving] the gold standard.

---

He leaves to Congress the *decision* [deciding] of the question of the future government of the islands.

---

The trades unions had given notice that in *the celebration* of [celebrating] Labor Day there was to be no politics. If the speeches of Mr. Bryan and Governor Roosevelt are read it will be found that *the latter* [Governor Roosevelt] scrupulously respected the wishes of his hosts, while Mr. Bryan violated the understanding. The Governor's address was a manly, thoughtful, disinterested treatment of the condition of labor. Mr. Bryan's address was *an* [a] harangue for—

---

They like him personally, but they are afraid to trust him *in the management* of [to manage] their governmental affairs. It is like the relations of a good many business men with those they meet socially. The men they enjoy playing billiards with at the club may not be the *ones* [men] they would want to put in charge of their business affairs.

---

That was bound to be a condition, but a serious problem will confront the Allies when it becomes necessary to agree upon a plan for *the collection* of [collecting] the money.

These documents constitute the first definite step *which* [that] has been taken toward the *solution* [solving] of the Chinese problem since the rescue of the legations.

---

They exist for the *accomplishment* [accomplishing] of public objects. They should have for their ideals the *maintenance* [maintaining] of good government, the *application* [applying] of right principles to public affairs, the *ascertainment* [ascertaining] of the will of the people touching public policies, and the *embodiment* [embodying] of that will in prompt and effective legislation. The Republican party is the giant instrument for the *attainment* [attaining] of these ideals.

---

The success of the law for the *taxation* [taxing] of franchises recently enacted in New York State, a measure *which* [that] has resulted in putting upon the assessment books nearly \$200,000,000 worth of property *which* [that] had theretofore escaped taxation, is an illustration of—

---

The effort *for the adoption by the Powers of* [by the Powers to adopt] a programme for harmonious action in China has resulted in expressions from all the Powers to the effect that only by unity can the Allies successfully negotiate for peace.

It must be understood that the delegates do not know the details of the plan *for the liberation* of [to liberate, or for liberating] their race.

---

An officer of prominence said that the rules of common sense would prevail in the *settlement* [settling] of the future of China and he was evidently hopeful of a favorable outcome.

---

Later he assisted in the *bombardment* [bombarding, i. e., to bombard] of Fort Anderson.

---

So far, then, from the reviled “trusts” offering injury to labor, *they* [the trusts] are destined to offer to *it* [labor] an opportunity *for combination in production* [to combine in producing] which will settle the “labor question” by making labor itself the capital.

*Trusts* should be in the possessive case.

---

These two advisory bodies have recommended the *building* of battle ships and armored cruisers. It is understood that Mr. Long is opposed to the *construction* [constructing] of any armorclads, and in this he is supported by several naval officers, members of the boards.

If *building* is correct—which it certainly is—then *construction* must be incorrect; if the one is good grammar, the other is bad grammar.

The inventor discards tall poles in *the operation of* [operating] his system and uses cylinders of moderate height.

---

The hackney taught the value of type in the heavy harness horse, and through breeding on and *more often* [oftener] by "hackneyizing" the made trotter, the effect of *the introduction of* [introducing] the breed has been clearly apparent.

---

Should it be proved that the girl came to her death through acts leading up to and in the *commission* [committing] of a felony, the law classifies the crime as murder in the first degree.

---

For two weeks fifty or more persons, some connected with the Police Department, and others privately employed, all of them experienced in detective work, have directed all their energies to the *solution* [solving] of the problem.

---

Wherever Nietzsche's teachings reach, wherever men become acquainted with his great and peculiar personality, it will attract strongly, as well as repel, but everywhere it will contribute to the *development* [developing] and *formation* [forming] of each individuality.

It will help to develop and form each individuality.



Since the death of Brahms, a struggle has been going on *between* [among] his relatives and several musical societies with regard to the *disposition* [disposing] of his possessions.

---

Counsel for Miss Wendel said he *would* [should] fight the *confirmation* [confirming] of the report of the commissioners based on the verdict of the sheriff's jury, and if he lost he *would* [should] appeal.

He should fight against the report's being confirmed.

---

Protestants were even obliged to complain that Catholic countries were in advance of them in the *printing* and *circulation* [circulating] of the Scriptures.

---

The details relating to the *organization* [organizing] of the Relief Committee were perfected by the *selection of* [selecting] the following as officers.

---

I have deposited \$50,000 in marketable railroad bonds, to be used as a fund for defraying expenses incident to the *investigation* [investigating] and *prosecution* [prosecuting] of frauds of the election to be held next Tuesday and in February.

Whatever, then, the Republican party has already done *for the establishment* [to establish] and *preservation of* [and preserve] the gold standard and whatever further law it might pass at the coming second session of Congress *for its protection* [to protect it] against Bryan could be repealed by his Congress at once, if it *was* [should be?] so disposed.

---

In case of another *Power* [Power's] making use of the complications in China in order to obtain, under any form whatever, such territorial advantages, the two contracting parties reserve to themselves the right to come to a preliminary understanding regarding the eventual step to be taken *for the protection of* [to protect] their own interests in China.

---

It was not a question of the *imposition* [imposing] upon the people of South America of any system of government devised in Europe, but simply the *determination* [determining] of the frontier of a British possession.

---

The commission is to begin at once *organization of* [to organize] native municipalities on the model of General Otis and to build from these to provincial governments.

---

Telegraphic advices from Minister Conger received at the State Department to-day show that

the diplomatic body at Pekin is making progress in *its determination of* [determining] the programme to be submitted to the Chinese peace plenipotentiaries as a basis for the *settlement* [settling] of the existing troubles.

Basis on which *to settle* existing troubles.  
In matters grammatical, the thought determines.

---

A survey of the *past* [last] twenty or twenty-five years reveals nothing more striking than the progress labor has made. This is seen in the *numerous* [many] laws that have been passed *for the protection of* [to protect] employees' rights and *the betterment of* [better] their condition.

---

For the first time in our history the world has seen, during Mr. McKinley's administration, the army and navy promptly and effectively used *for the protection* [to protect] and *relief of* [relieve] American citizens suffering from violation of treaty rights in a foreign country.

---

The Kansas City Convention was adverse to *reaffirmation of* [reaffirming] the Chicago platform, and a majority of its delegates honestly hoped to purge the party of the vicious heresies *which* [that] had lost it the respect and confidence of the country.

Another magazine, in high standing among the Catholics, the Ave Maria, said: "In Father O'Connor's version the work of editing has consisted in the *omission* [omitting] of certain genuine passages and the *insertion* [inserting] of other brief *ones* [passages] *which* [that] are commonly supposed to be innocent interpolations."

---

As the telegrams from Shanghai *which* [that] we printed on Sunday have been confirmed by subsequent despatches to London newspapers, we are justified in assuming that the first step has been taken toward the *solution* [solving] of the Chinese problem.

---

Put them all through; but let the legislation for the absolutely necessary *re-enforcement* [re-enforcing] of the army have the right of way over them all.

---

The dates for the beginning and *termination* [terminating] of relations were precisely fixed.

---

The right of a man to make a fool of himself is probably inalienable. Equally *so* [inalienable] is the right of any two men to agree that *under* [in?] certain circumstances one shall do something *for the amusement of* [to amuse] the other.

---

On all sides complaints loud and deep are heard as to the scarcity of servants, and *various*

[many] remedies, more or less practical, have been suggested *for the alleviation of* [to alleviate] the housewife's trouble.

---

The *deposition* [deposing] of the Empress Dowager is, indeed, believed by many papers to be a necessary precaution for the future.

---

The plan calls for the *construction* [constructing] of three battle ships, three armored cruisers, and twelve gunboats; the exact number of the *latter class of vessels* [gunboats], however, has not been fixed.

---

It is very likely, however, as was indicated in a Washington despatch to the Sun yesterday, that the Government will not agree to the *proposition* [proposal] to prohibit the *importation* [importing] of firearms and ammunition into China.

---

He reminded the board that out of sixty-eight ordinances for the *betterment* [bettering] of the water supply in the city, it had *only passed* [passed only] fifteen.

---

I have been so busily engaged in the *construction of* [constructing] my steel plant during these prosperous times that I have given hardly a thought to politics.

I certainly think that the *drawing* up and the *passage* [passing] of this bill will be the first and primary business of the State Legislature when it assembles.

---

Yesterday was the first day for the *collection* [collecting] of taxes, and between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000 was taken in at the Tax Receiver's office.

---

He has had a stormy career, but in the main [he] has been successful, as far as the *attainment* [attaining] of political honors at the hands of his party is concerned.

---

Does the Constitution authorize any one to commit the United States to the *maintenance* [maintaining] and *support* [supporting] of the ambitions or [the] pretensions of any foreign ruler or usurper?

---

His conduct in the *enforcement* [enforcing] and *collection of* [collecting] forfeited bail bonds was claimed to have been improper.

---

Engineers started this morning making a survey and running lines preparatory to the *resumption* [resuming] of work.

---

But the Chinese have special grievances: the *opening* of ports and the *imposition* [imposing]

of obnoxious treaties on them by force, the *construction* [constructing] of railways and telegraphs, and the *working* of mines in such a way as to disturb the graves of ancestors.

If "opening of ports" and "working of mines," why not "imposing of treaties" and "constructing of railways"?

---

The judiciary department of this Government, aided by the Minister of Commerce, is reported to be working on a general law governing the *formation* [forming] and *conduct* [conducting] of trusts.

---

The *embroidery* [embroidering] of robes is also done by men, and is in very great demand.

---

Another decree is to be issued in regard to the *selection* [selecting] of judges of first instance and judges of the Audencia.

If the *selecting* was judiciously done, it resulted in their having a good *selection*.

---

It would hardly be surprising to find that there *was* [is] an enterprising young lawyer behind that Cleveland club for the *encouragement* [encouraging] of divorce.

It is not a question here of past but of present time, hence *is*.

But all the same the question of the *prevention* [preventing] of seasickness is always interesting.

---

The title of the organization is "The National Society *for the Relief of* [to Relieve] Dependent Widows and Orphans of the Officers and Enlisted Men of the Regular Army of the United States."

---

A considerable period of time was required *for the manufacture* [to manufacture] and *erection* of [erect] this monster machine.

---

In the *argument* [arguing] of legal questions before the courts his briefs were prepared by his assistants, and no man knew better how to use them.

Better, because simpler: In arguing legal questions.

---

Protest Government against *evacuation* [evacuating] Pekin and *recognition* [recognizing] Li Hung Chang. Both disastrous to missions.

---

The eight hundred students at the college propose to experience all the excitement of a presidential campaign, even if their votes do not contribute directly to the *election* [electing] of any candidates.



The committee would not listen to the demands of the men in regard to the *employment* [employing] and *discharge* [discharging] of the workmen.

---

Prince Ching will leave the *arrangement* [arranging] of the preliminaries largely to Li Hung Chang.

That is, Prince Ching will leave to Li Hung Chang the doing of something—the arranging.

---

The steamer Boscowitz, the last to arrive from the north, brings details of one of the strangest mysteries connected with the *exploration* [exploring] and *development* [developing] of Alaska.

---

The authority of the United States is to be exerted for the *securing* of the persons and property of the people of the islands and for the *confirmation* [confirming] of all their private rights and relations.

---

The discharge of Colonel Harrison is the result of the *abolishment of* [abolishing] the Department of Porto Rico, of which he was Inspector General.

---

The dredgers are fully aware of this and never feel any fear of bodily harm while being chased. Another thing *which* [that] hampers the *adminis-*

*tration* [administering] of the law is the fact that the sympathies of the justices and judges are *generally* [commonly] with the oystermen in the country districts.

---

The real crusade against the *promotion* [promoting] and *protection* [protecting] of vice in this city has begun.

---

Offers its services for the safe keeping and judicious *management* [managing] of trust funds.

---

It is admitted by the present biographer that the cardinal was a cold man, unwavering in his animosities and merciless in *the infliction of* [inflicting] punishment.

---

This clause provides that the residue and remainder of the estate, which is a large one, be used *for the erection* [to erect] and *maintenance of* [maintain] a suitable building by the city of Woburn, to be used and occupied as a library.

Which is large, instead of Which is a large one.

---

After *careful consideration of* [carefully considering] the subject of *Boston* [Boston's] being represented in the Cup defence, it developed beyond question that the sentiment of our best yachtsmen *was* [is] that the city should be, if it *were* [is] possible. It likewise developed that

there *were* [are] many obstacles in the way of *successful realization of* [realizing] this desire. Modern Cup defending has grown to be expensive, so expensive as *to almost* [almost to] exclude small communities like ours from taking part.

It is not necessary to follow every word that expresses a condition with the subjunctive, many as there are that seem to think it is. Here, the subjunctive says: "If it were possible, which it is not," which is wide of the thought.

---

Desirous as we are to secure the harmonious working of the *administrative* [administration] machinery and to preserve the equity and justice of its action, we propose to use scrupulous vigilance in *the appointment of* [appointing] officials; to avoid useless formalities in *the transaction of* [transacting] official business, *to clearly define and rigidly exact* [clearly to define and rigidly to exact] the performance of the duties and responsibilities attaching to the various official positions, to maintain strict discipline among public functionaries and to secure such despatch and precision in *the conduct of* [conducting] business as are required by the country.

There could not be such a thing as *administrative* machinery. We do not *perform* duties or responsibilities, we *discharge* them.

The holding of public *position* should be an incident and not the aim *of the citizen*; it should be not an *end*, but the means for the accomplishment of a *purpose*.—*William Jennings Bryan, as reported in the New York Sun.*

Here we have a sentence that few persons would pause to find fault with, yet if we look at it closely, we find it very vulnerable. We mend it, in part, by changing *for the accomplishment of* to *to accomplish*, and we mend it wholly (?) by rewriting it thus: "The holding of public *office* should be an incident, not an aim; it should be not an end, but the means *to attain an end*."

The words *of the citizen* are worse than useless, and the using of *purpose* instead of re-using *end* is weakening, hence a dictional error. *Accomplish an end* might be allowed to pass unchallenged, though it is questionable idiom. We accomplish a purpose, attain an end, and compass an object.

Much that we read, especially in the daily papers, would suffer as much from close scrutiny as does this sentence.

## THE NEW YORK SUN'S SPECIAL ABHORRENCE

SAYS the New York Sun: "Constant attention is the price of good English. There is one error that constantly appears in spite of all castigation. It is a sort of phraseology that is exceedingly vicious. The infernal ingenuity of the reporters contrives to frame a sentence in which there are two nominatives and only one verb."

This locution that is The Sun's special abhorrence might be called the he-was-given-an-ovation locution.

Has this double-headed barbarian come to stay? It looks that way, though more offensive no locution easily could be. Whether infernal, as The Sun intimates, or not, it's a pity The Infernal does not take it.

This story *was given a place of honor* in the Brooklyn Eagle, and was extensively copied in different papers throughout the country. In *each*

[every] case the proper credit was given to the authors.—*New York Dramatic Mirror*.

Something like this is, probably, what The Mirror intended to say: The Brooklyn Eagle gave the story a place of honor, and it was extensively copied.

---

The sailor *is given the fight* in the eighth round.—*Head line of a New York paper*.

This probably means: The fight is given to the sailor in the eighth round.

---

Religious intolerance ceased and *Christian missionaries were given freedom of action*, and the Jews were allowed to build a second synagogue.—*The Literary Digest*.

---

If this is all that is done, if American manufacturers are placed simply on equal conditions with foreign manufacturers instead of *being given an advantage over them* [an advantage being given them] at the expense of the consumers, there would be, we imagine, small disposition to keep the question in the realm of party politics.—*New York Voice*.

---

An old Irish laborer walked into the luxurious studio of an artist, a few days ago, and asked for money to obtain a meal. *He was given a trifle and departed*.—*Tid-Bits*.

The history of his struggles is celebrated. Assuredly the victory will remain with him. At the last debate *he was refused a cruiser squadron.*—*New York Sun.*

---

In the first place, *you are given a home*, luxuriously and more or less beautifully and expensively furnished, where real estate is highest. *You are given every comfort and convenience.*—*Home Journal.*

---

She borrowed money and went into a business which she carried to a splendidly successful completion, and when her second daughter became an invalid *she was given every luxury* and tender care that money and affection could supply, while a comfortable home was established for the so-called "Man."

---

Most of the Cubans who were identified with the revolutionary movement against Spain are bitterly opposed to annexation by the United States, and if *they are not given independence* they will make trouble for those who undertake to thwart their aspirations.

---

One evening, just as the farmer had finished his chores, a fine-looking man in clerical garb drove up to the house in a buggy. *He* requested shelter for the night, and *was given the best room* in the house.

When he had finished he thanked the court and, still tapping his cane on the floor, keeping time with his step, left the room. The result was that on that day *I was given a judgment for \$22,000.*

---

When an Evening Telegram reporter saw young Kiely in the prison he complained bitterly that *he was being given a "dirty deal."*

Did Kiely say to the reporter, "I am being given a dirty deal?"

---

In a short three years under Republican protection *they have been given more general employment* and at higher wages than ever before.

---

*Jerry*, soon after his return from the war, *was given a minor position* in the bank, and being a clever, well-educated fellow he rapidly advanced until he was made paying teller.

---

One of the men gave him some meat and cheese and the alligator ate it out of his hands. As soon as *he was given the food* he returned to the water.

---

It isn't because there are not able, respectable, patriotic, and brilliant Americans in Mr. Bryan's parties that *they should be refused power* now, but because they have no business policy upon which they can agree as a unit.



The medal is a fitting token of the nation's appreciation of such a deed. The hero will soon lead to the altar a beautiful bride, and among all the wedding presents that will be received *this golden tribute* to the husband's valor *should be given a place of honor*.

---

*Forrest was given a negro "song and dance act"* to do when he was very young, and after he had studied it up he asked where was the "old negro lady" that was to act as his assistant in the piece.

---

But the laboring man is even more interested in the *proposition* [proposal] to establish a labor bureau with a Cabinet officer at its head. Such a bureau would keep the Executive in constant touch with the wage-earners of the country, and open the way to redress their present and future grievances. *If labor is given a place* in the President's official household, the man selected will necessarily be a worthy and trusted representative of the people.

---

*They were given a great send-off* as they left the grounds.

---

Will Mr. Bryan denounce his party associates in Congress who voted on June 1st last that *the National Government should not be given the power* to control trusts?

"No sooner was this done," continued the story-teller, "than a great uproar of protests arose from the group in the corner. They insisted that *they had been given no chance to bid*, but the auctioneer stood firm."

---

*He was given the control* of the third military district.

---

*He was given a life interest* in the estate.

---

*I was given one of the copies.*

---

Examples in the first person are comparatively rare. 

---

*The nations should be given warning.*—Governor Budd.

---

With us ministers, *we are constantly given occasion* [an opportunity?] to study character—

---

Among the questions discussed at a session of the University of the State of New York this was one:

*Should the A.M. degree be abandoned, or given a distinct pedagogic significance?*

"What should be done," asked the New York Sun, "when the chiefs of a university

show such dreadful ignorance of the English language? ” \_\_\_\_\_

For every scratch *I have been given* he has two scars. \_\_\_\_\_

*He was convicted, and was given a sentence of twenty years.* \_\_\_\_\_

*He had been refused her hand.* \_\_\_\_\_

While in prison, *he was given a position* in the Warden's office, and *was granted many privileges*. On account of his good behavior, *he was given credit*, and in 1888 had but three years more to serve. \_\_\_\_\_

Going on to New York, *the committee were [was] given a great and enthusiastic meeting* at Cooper Union. \_\_\_\_\_

He caused astonishment by offering to pay the other \$4,000 at once provided *he was granted five per cent discount*. \_\_\_\_\_

“I am not ruled off,” he said. “The despatches merely say that *I will [shall] be refused a license*.” \_\_\_\_\_

It is enough to say concerning my youth that I was *raised* [reared] on a farm and was ac-

counted a pretty weedy crop. The cockleburrs and crab-grass seemed to spring up all the more prolific after *I had been given a good thrashing*.

After a good thrashing had been given I. Turning it around a bit doesn't mend it. Offensive as this locution is, it, now and then, gets into some well-written books.

## FORMER AND LATTER

THESE two words, the pronouns, and all other words that send the reader back to an antecedent, should be used as sparingly as possible.

Nine times in ten, at the least, when *the former* or *the latter* is used, it would be better to repeat the noun.

Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Morill, and Mr. Gear were formerly merchants, but *the former* [Mr. Aldrich] is now the manager of the street-car interests in Rhode Island.—*W. E. Curtis.*

The words *former* and *latter* are properly used only when it is a question of two. Commonly, it is better not to use them at all. The reader always has to go back to see which is which.

---

For illustration, *n* is classed lingual, when in truth it is lingual-nasal, with a deal more of the *latter* [nasal] than [of] the *former* [lingual].—*Professor R. E. Mayne.*

Letters passed back and forth between McComb and Ames, in one of which *the latter* [Ames], a plain, outspoken man, declared that he had placed the stock with influential gentlemen.—*New York Sun.*

---

All communications between Wagner and Bülow naturally ceased, and *the latter* [Bülow] began his period of *Wanderleben*.

---

These tablets consisted partly of contracts and other legal documents, partly of public and private letters. The *latter* [letters] have just been carefully arranged, and for the first time their full importance is evident.

---

Mr. W. D. Howells, who for many years was a close friend of James Russell Lowell, includes in his reminiscences of the New England poet and critic in *Scribner's Magazine* (September) some interesting statements as to *the latter's* [Lowell's] attitude toward religion.

---

In these cartoons all foreigners are represented as goats and all Christians as pigs. The predominance of the *latter* [pigs] in most of the cartoons throws some light on the question as to how far a hatred of the missionaries, rather than of foreigners in general, is responsible for the present outbreak.

Victor Emmanuel II and his son Humbert I were both men of strong and ineradicable attachment to the church, and the usurpation of the Pope's temporal domain by the *former* [Victor Emmanuel] and the continuance in possession by *the latter* [Humbert] were, it has been proved by repeated incidents, the source of continual heart-burnings to them.

---

The present generation is distinctly an eater of sweets, not of fats; but while the *former* [sweets] supply the heat that would be obtained from the fats, they do not supply certain lubricant qualities *which* [that] are so important for the proper performance of the intestinal functions.

---

One Esquimau *for the management of* [to manage] the dogs, of which there were 120. The *latter* [dogs] were fed on a "pemmican," made of horse meat and flour.

---

If William III and his consort, Queen Mary, daughter of James II, had had a son, the *latter* [son] would have become not only King of England, but Stadtholder of the Netherlands.

---

The woman was soon in tears, which gave way later to anger. She scolded her father-in-law and her youthful husband and defied the *former* [father-in-law] to take the *latter* [husband] away from her.

Mr. Henley says that had Rossetti and Byron been contemporaries, some of *the former's* [Rossetti's] verses would have had the proud distinction of making the author of Don Juan blush.

---

On November 25th, the seals were taken from du Vaire and given to Mangot. At the same time the secretaryship of state held by *the latter* [Mangot] was given to Richelieu.

---

Richelieu hoped by depriving Gaston of his refuge to induce him to a reconciliation, but *the latter* [Gaston] was persuaded by his chief adviser to withdraw to Brussels.

---

British and Russians clash. Railway interests of the *former* [British] believed to be in danger.

---

The portents of war between England and France are looming large upon the horizon, and *the former Power* [England] has just determined upon a step *which* [that] shows that she is ready to make the best of her opportunities on this quarter of the globe.

---

Albeit there are *numerous* [many] thrifty souls that find a bank in hens and eggs and coax the *former* [hens] by many ingenious and successful devices to produce the *latter* [eggs] in quantities to suit.



Soon after his return to the United States Jones became involved in a controversy with Arthur Lee, and he did not hesitate to charge *the latter* [Lee] with having betrayed our most secret policy to our arch enemy, Great Britain.

---

Lord Salisbury then made a veiled thrust at the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Wolseley, because of the recent speech in which *the latter* [Wolseley] placed most of the responsibility for the shortcomings of the army on the War Office.

---

There is no need to assume that there is any disagreement between him and the Emperor. *The latter* [Emperor], as the world knows, has been for years his own Chancellor, and there is no evidence that Prince Hohenlohe ever challenged or wished to challenge his Majesty's authority.

---

There is no love lost between the Coreans and the Japanese. On the side of the *latter* [Japanese] the feeling is one of contempt, and the hatred of the Coreans is justified by the treatment they have received from Japanese adventurers and speculators. In case of a clash between Russia and Japan the Coreans would probably side with *the former* [Russia].

---

The Cherries, as they are known throughout Ohio, are the daughters of a farmer who died some time ago, leaving them a farm covered with clay, on top of which rested a nice thick mort-

gage. In order to lift the *latter* [mortgage] so that they might till the *former* [farm] the girls started out as a "troupe" to give entertainments in the Iowa towns.

The easier we make it for the reader to get our thought the better is our diction.

---

Their present population does not fall short of 30,000,000, more than two thirds of which are in Java. If the administrative methods followed so successfully in *the last-named island* [Java] were to be applied to all the Dutch East Indies, these would easily sustain 100,000,000 of inhabitants.

---

The Marquis de Noailles, the French Ambassador to Germany, called on Imperial Chancellor von Bülow to-day. *The latter* [Von Bülow] assured the *representative of France* [Marquis] that the Anglo-German agreement in regard to China *was* [is] merely in regard to commerce.

---

Three days later a rumor got abroad that D'Esterre was going to horsewhip O'Connell, and *the former* [D'Esterre] actually appeared in the Four Courts with a whip in his hand, but failed to find *the latter* [O'Connell].

---

Subsequently she sang for a period of seven months at Geneva, was heard also in Nice, Marseilles, Cairo, Monte Carlo, and Bordeaux, and was invited by Sonsogne to sing in Milan and

Genoa. In *the last-named city* [Genoa] she appeared as the heroine of Massenet's *Le Cid*.

---

In the controversy between Max Müller and the late Professor Whitney of Yale University it is generally admitted that *the former* [Müller] was worsted.

---

His story is that Captain Herlihy called him a liar and that he then went to see Inspector Cross. When he got to the *latter's* [Inspector's] office, he says, he found Captain Herlihy already there.

---

Mr. Walton next proceeded to Li Hung Chang's private residence, where he found one of *the latter's* [Li's] private secretaries, Mr. Pethick, an American, who had arranged the interview.

---

If one citizen may properly withhold his vote, logically all may, while to decline *voting* [to vote] because practically assured that others will vote, is to give to the *latter* [others] an undue share of political power and to forfeit the right to complain of any abuse of *it* [power].

---

The country lying between Daiquiri and Siboney, and between *the latter place* [Siboney] and Santiago, was marvellously adapted for a stubborn defence.

Both leader and subleader resisted arrest, the *former* [leader] fighting his way clear to the station-house.

---

Mr. Perkins is convinced, that, had Father Joseph survived Richelieu, *the former* [Joseph] would have succeeded *the latter* [Richelieu] in his position at the head of affairs in France.

---

The accident occurred while the train was running from Tuxedo to Paterson. It left *the former place* [Tuxedo] at 3.48 o'clock and was due at Paterson at 4.21.

---

The Magdeburg correspondent of the Gazette telegraphs an interview with a Japanese diplomat, in which the *latter* [diplomat] says that Japan has not assumed Russia's attitude toward China.

---

The quarrel between the Mayor and [the] Bishop this morning puts the *latter* [Bishop] in the background. The clergymen, however, are likely to form an organization. Many of them have announced that they *will* [shall] preach on the subject to-morrow.

---

The two young women convicted of carrying on this particular swindle were sisters, Catherine and Marian M. *The former* [Catherine] is twenty-two and *the latter* [Marian] twenty.

---

Eugene Field and the farmer. Having killed the *latter's* [farmer's] duck, the poet presented his view of the matter.

---

The Brooklyn policeman *who* [that] clubbed his own roundsman when the *latter* [roundsman] remonstrated with him for being in a saloon while on post, is a nice sort of *individual* [person] to look after the safety of the public.

---

There is a distinction to be drawn between the rights of a master in his home and his rights in his public store. In the *latter case* [store] there is an implied invitation to the general public to come in, and a person entering such an establishment has greater privileges, and, consequently, the master less rights.

---

Learning that his visitor had [had] an audience with Prince Ching at Pekin, he pertinently asked whether Jung-lu *had been* [was] present, adding that *the latter* [Jung-lu] was Prime Minister and Generalissimo of the Chinese Army.

---

A harpy eagle could carry off a small baby and the golden eagle can carry off a small fawn or a kid or a wild turkey, and does it when opportunity offers. The *latter* [golden eagle] sometimes weighs twelve pounds and has an expanse of wing of seven feet and a half.

A student may be admitted without any knowledge of either Greek or Latin, but he must offer French or German as a substitute for *the latter language* [Latin].

---

Here is the syllogism: The cases of China and the Philippines are identical. In *the former* [China] the President has pursued the only policy *which* [that] is right. In the *latter* [Philippines] he has pursued a different policy, and it therefore must be wrong.

---

A conductor *who* [that] is not afraid to *perform* [do] his duty will remove the obstructing baggage if the owner refuses to *do so* [remove it]. But, should the conductor lack the will or the nerve to protect the traveller in his rights, the *latter* [traveller] will have the sympathy of his fellow-travellers if he removes the obstructor's belongings.

---

Watts—The more I think of that *fellow* [fellow's] murdering another over fifteen cents, the more awful it seems. Fancy a human life lost for fifteen cents!

Potts—I see nothing in it. In the first place, the affair occurred in Kentucky, and in the second place, the money was part of a jackpot. There are things in *that State* [Kentucky] more sacred than life.

On the whole, then, Mr. Bryan, in spite of inferior intellectuality, would wear better as a leader than Mr. Towne. When *the latter* [Towne] was rejected at Kansas City, it was a protest against nominating a Republican on a Democratic ticket.

---

It must be a government of intelligence as well as *one* of honesty. An ignorant, incompetent honest man in an important office is likely to do more permanent harm than a rascal *who* [that] is intelligent and progressive. The *latter* [rascal] may steal some money, but the *former* [honest ignoramus] may mar or destroy a park or boulevard or construct an eyesore of brick and stone where there should be an artistic public edifice.

---

The *one* should come out or a *government* should be repeated.

---

The professional politician is usually disposed to decry and ridicule the professional reformer, and the *latter* [reformer] can rarely see any good in the politician.

Who will deny that *former* and *latter* are much overworked? True, we couldn't get along well without them, but nine times in ten where now we use them they are not needed.

## THE ANTECEDENT CON- STRUCTION

NEVER choose any antecedent construction, if you can well avoid it. The fewer the antecedents, the more forcible the diction.

That the American people will express their opinions in November, no one knows better than Chairman Hanna, and hence the pressure that he is bringing to bear on the coal barons to comply with the miners' demands and put an end to the strike. *He* [Mr. Hanna] is fearful, and justly *so* [fearful], of *its* [the strike's] effect on the American mind.

---

Eliza Ruhama Scidmore, who has written several books on far Eastern countries, reminds those who are looking for "the break-up of China" that China has been "breaking up" and "dying" for thousands of years, and will probably continue to *do so* [break up] for thousands of years to come.

---

Well, he came to Brook Farm; and I remember that some of his natural predilections devel-



oped themselves there as they had not before been able to *do* [develop].—*Charles A. Dana.*

---

*Under* [in] these circumstances the patriotic citizen has to consider this fall whether the public interests are to be better advanced by maintaining in power the present administration with all its shortcomings or by providing a wholly untried *one* [administration].

---

We *will* [shall] not all share alike, but something each one of us will get. Let us strive to make the conditions of life such that as nearly as possible each man shall receive the share *to which he is honestly entitled* [he is honestly entitled to] and no more; and let us remember at the same time that our efforts must be to build up, rather than to strike down, and that we can best help ourselves, not at the expense of others, but by heartily working with *them* [others] for the common good of each and all.

---

In this the *Duke of Reichstadt* dies à la *Camille*, but before he *does so* [dies] he receives, so says the playbook, the "last sacraments."

---

This is the last Thanksgiving of the century. That in itself is not a matter to be joyous over, for it reminds us that we are getting along. But it has been a very fine century for this country.

And the indications are that the next *one* [century] will be *more so* [still finer for the country].

---

That is not the danger. They know that if I am elected I will put the same kind of striped clothes on a big thief that are put on a little *one* [thief].

---

Is woman less or more intelligent than man? Less *so* [intelligent], decidedly, says Professor Paolo Mantegazza.

---

We have no record of the part played by Richelieu in the preceding debates, but that it must have been a distinguished *one* [part] is proved by the fact—

---

Somewhat careless of the smaller moralities, still more *so* [careless] of his own reputation.

---

The days following were *ones* [days] of terrible suspense *at* [in] Washington.

---

In discussing the South African crisis in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* several months ago, a Dutch writer, a member of the States-General of the Netherlands, makes some remarks on imperialism *which* [that] are very striking, the more *so* [striking], perhaps, because the writer

seems to have a genuine admiration for the British people.

---

It is to be observed that while the South African republics made like requests of other Powers the United States is the only *one which* [Power that] complied.

---

It is noticed that the Eastern cities are now growing about as fast as the Western *ones* [cities], while the cities of the South are lagging somewhat.

---

He observes, with an eye on Messrs. Carlisle, Peabody, Dickinson, Morton, Eckels, and others, that "those men *who* [that] clamor for reorganization after defeat are the very *ones who* [men that] contribute to the defeat."

---

But while we recognize the perils of the present and are bound to do our duty in meeting them, the perils through which we have passed in safety both give ground for hope that the present *ones* [perils] will eventually be surmounted.

---

The campaign four years ago was notable for its changes in the political alinement of State and national leaders. The campaign this year has not furnished as yet nearly *as* [so] large a number of surprises, but it has not been devoid of *them* [surprises] by any manner of means.

I think there will be found a strange coincidence in the range of their ages, which may appear *to, at least* [at least to], favor a more natural theory as explanation than the constant and almost wearisome *one* [theory] of the epileptic possession or influence.

---

The Bulgarian agitation—to a large extent a sham *one* [agitation]—for the “redemption,” as it is called, of Macedonia, is a safety-valve that relieves Prince Ferdinand from much unpleasant criticism.

---

She had mistaken a desire to act for the ability to *do it* [act].—*New York Sun*.

---

The Kentucky is a sister ship of the Kearsarge and was built at Newport News. These ships are the only *ones* [ships] in any navy equipped with superimposed turrets. On top of the turrets for the 13-inch guns are placed smaller *ones* [turrets] containing the four 8-inch guns.

---

This boot is much lighter and more flexible than ordinary *ones* [boots].

---

But beside this, there are other questions you have to consider as important, and even more *so* [important], than the demand for [the] unlimited *coinage* [coining] of silver.

The coming test of the silver question at the polls must, in all human probability, be the final *one* [test].

---

The city authorities are *anxious* [desirous] to proceed with this work, but inform us that they can not *do so* [proceed] until they are in a position to make contracts for the interior work.

---

I hate a "coward," especially a dishonest *one* [coward]. This man Sulzer at least has the courage to tell the truth, and if I lived in his district I *would* [should] vote for him.

---

This is not the language of statesmanship, but rather *that* [the language] of a candidate who is not very particular what he says if it will bring him the support of unthinking voters.

---

As to trusts, he declares that "if the present law can be extended more certainly to control or check these monopolies or trusts, it should be *done* [extended] without delay."

---

The Know Nothing party showed that there was dissatisfaction in the North with existing political organizations and that a new *one* [organization] was needed.

---

The subtlety of his character was perhaps indispensable in the atmosphere of deceit and plots

amid which he lived, but, while cunning may be a serviceable quality, it is not *an* [a] heroic *one* [quality].

---

The peace of 1783 was a calamitous *one* [peace] for England, and yet it was only with difficulty obtained.—*New York Sun*.

This sentence would be further bettered by changing the position of the words thus: Was obtained only with difficulty. This puts the most emphatic word at the end of the sentence, besides keeping the parts of the verb together.

---

Two nights ago, on top of all the hullabaloo that landed him in Eldridge Street, a tramp through his precinct and the two adjoining *ones* [precincts], those in Fifth Street and Union Market, at 2 A. M., discovered just one policeman on post.

---

The political objections to Oriental labor are scarcely less weighty than the economic *ones* [objections].

---

Blanche Walsh has a spell of polished comedy and *one* [a spell] of rough melodrama in Marcelle. For the *former* [comedy] her stately beauty is displayed in a pompadour toilet of a fine lady

of a century and a half ago in Quebec, when French fashions prevailed in that city.

---

Our industrial and agricultural conditions are more promising than they have been for many years; probably more *so* [promising] than they have ever been [before].

---

The American matron is just as powerful, and a good deal more *so* [powerful], than the celebrated Mrs. Grundy.

---

Colonel Fellows's condition to-day is very grave, *more so* [graver] than last night or yesterday. There are serious doubts of his recovery. —*New York Evening Sun*.

---

Headache is also very prevalent, but for this they have a remedy, or what they allege to be *one* [a remedy].

---

No one in official circles here has believed that Russia would insist on withdrawing from Pekin if the other Powers refused to *do so* [withdraw].

---

Then there would be a battle royal between the various strong tribes to subdue the weaker *ones* [tribes], then a fierce row to see who *would* [should] come out on top.

The British Museum, in its manuscript department, has an unrivalled collection of letters of celebrities, and by far the most valuable *one* [collection] in existence. In 1895 they *commenced* [began] publishing a series of specimens of the handwritings of royal, historical, literary, and other eminent persons.

---

The tone of the leading Republican papers induces us to believe that the policy of the White House is to maintain American interests in opposition to European *ones* [interests] in various parts of the world more steadily than hitherto.

---

Even after the triumphs of the courts of law had yielded to the greater *ones* [triumphs] of the House of Commons, the title of "counsellor" ever remained his favorite appellation with the Irish peasantry.

---

Remember all the terrible things you said were going to happen if you were not elected in 1896. It was money in my pocket to have you beaten then. It will be money in my pocket to have you beaten next November, and I'm going to help *do it* [beat you].

---

The country is still prosperous and will remain *so* [prosperous] under Republican management.



"I know something I won't tell," sang the widow boarder's little girl, as little girls have *done* [sung] ever since language was invented.

---

It is a real pity, *as much so* [as great a pity] as would be the destruction of the beautiful flowers *which* [that] everywhere distil their perfumes on the slumbrous air.—*New York Sun*.

---

And it would not if there were not plenty of persons *who had* [that have] read it, as well as many more *who* [that] may be expected to *do so* [read it].

---

I wish I knew as much about anything as Tom Macaulay *does* [knows] about everything—meaning, of course, everything historical.

---

Can you pick out a man whose moral fibre is any stronger, or is likely to be made *so* [stronger], by the fact that McKinley *was* [has been] elected? Or one whose moral fibre would have been made *so* [stronger] had Bryan been elected?

---

These monarchs behave very well when attempts are made on their lives. Of course it is part of their business to *do so* [behave well]. But all the same, the display of professional spirit is to be commended.

I agree with him, that this will be one of the great issues in this campaign—aye, the paramount *one* [issue]—upon which we may hope to receive the support of Republicans.

---

Beyond doubt the present year is a critical *one* [year] for our country.

---

The remarkable character of the wins made by the Chicago man was the wonder of the racing world, and they will become even more *so* [wonderful] when it is known that he had not previously raced horses in this country.

---

Unless the police are willing to tell the truth, or can be compelled to *do so* [tell the truth], we may not be able, in many cases, to produce legal evidence of this state of things that would satisfy a grand jury.

---

Representatives of fifteen denominations present. Theoretical topics considered yesterday. Only practical *ones* [topics] are to be on the programme from this time out.

---

That objection of Mr. Olney's may be passed by. It is an old argument, but it was never a goon *one* [argument], even when it was new.

---

Some plays should never have a Metropolitan "first night," and such a *one* [play] is The Parish

Priest, which Daniel Sully produced at the Fourteenth Street Theatre last week.

---

This policy is not only patriotic but it is the only safe *one* [policy] to pursue. Any other policy would show weakness on the part of the United States and invite foreign complications.

---

The most noteworthy feature of the coal miners' strike is the familiar attempt of organized labor to force all men to leave work, whether they want to *do so* [leave work] or not.

---

I have no more sympathy than he displays with abstention from voting, a recognized method of expressing political opinions undoubtedly, but to my mind a singularly ineffective *one* [method].

---

The office is one of the most attractive in the Government, and was rendered doubly *so* [attractive] by the cordiality of your tender of it.—*Chauncey M. Depew.*

---

In other cities of England the number of principal centres, each with subordinate *ones* [centres], will number from one to six, according to size.

---

My retirement dates from that year, not from this. Few men have made more speeches for

their party than I have *done* [made], and no ex-President, I am sure, has made so many.

---

Ptomaines may be developed from a variety of foods, but the principal *ones* [foods] from which the poisoning occurs are meat, milk, shell-fish, and fish.

---

When we told them that Admiral Dewey was inclined to permit the three to go to Manila on the collier Nanshan if they could give any good reason for *so doing* [going], they informed us that they did not wish to go to Manila until—

---

As the number of persons using open cars in this city is very large, and as every person traveling in that way desires to occupy an end seat, the question is a very important one. It is more *so* [important] than that involving the right of a passenger on a railroad car to place his baggage in the seat beside him.

---

.I never indulge in personalities. I have refrained from indulging in personalities throughout the campaign and *will* [shall] continue to *do so* [refrain].

---

In civilized countries the Jewish kitchen is, after the vegetarian *one* [kitchen], the most narrowly confined as far as selection goes. There,

where in all other kitchens the delicacies *commence* [begin], the bill of fare of the Jewish kitchen has already come to an end.

---

Now there is nothing at all humorous in any of these things, as such. Nor do they become any more *so* [humorous] when woven into the texture of a song.

---

It seems that no one can go into court to prosecute a just claim or resist an unjust *one* [claim] without having his family skeleton produced and his private life made the subject of public ridicule.

---

I had the good fortune to go through South Dakota. There were few victories that gave me more unalloyed satisfaction than the *one* [victory] in that State.

---

In the alleged fraudulent divorce suits *which* [that] resulted in several *indictments* [indictments'] being found by the grand jury, answers, some of them alleged to have been "fake" *ones* [answers], were interposed and the referees *who* [that] heard the cases were imposed upon.

---

These two passages should be read in the light of his declaration at Zanesville on September 4th: "The party stands where it *did* [stood] in 1896 on the money question."

Mention is made in the seventh century of our era by a Chinese traveller of a city either on or near the site of the present *one* [city], called Tchatch or Jadj.

---

The way to stop this is not to wait until the men have registered, but to stamp it out before they have a chance to *do so* [register].

---

Villard first studied law. Beginning with correspondence to German papers, and afterward, as his English grew better, to American *ones* [papers], he finally went into newspaper work.

---

That the sun was once much hotter is probable, but [it is] equally *so* [probable] that at an earlier period it was much colder.

---

The ultra-Conservative Kreuz Zeitung says in regard to American relations with Europe that Mr. McKinley's election will perhaps not inspire so much confidence as Mr. Bryan's would have *given* [inspired].

The writer thought he should not re-use the word *inspire*. This aversion to re-using a word often weakens the diction.

---

In response he announced that he *was* [is] heartily in favor of *the election of* [electing]

Bryan. He epitomized the issues that he considers the leading *ones* [issues] of the campaign.

---

Having practised the *acquisition* [acquiring] of territory for nearly sixty years, the question of constitutional power *to do so* [to acquire territory] is no longer an open *one* [question] with us.—*Lincoln*.

---

It is fair to assume that his later prophecies are worth just as much as his earlier *ones* [prophecies] and that expansion will be the source of new prosperity and power.

---

That the marquis's party is numerically strong and influential through the character of the political leaders *who* [that] have already joined it, or are likely to *do so* [join it] in the future, seems to be the general opinion in Japan.

---

It has taken them a long time to get around to this view, which is the logical *one* [view]. But we may be happy yet.

---

He shows plainly that Aguinaldo, after the Spanish-American War, was never at the head of any government, unless a paper *one* *which* [government that] he created himself.

If the millionaires pay their proportion of the tax this year and every succeeding *one* [year]; as the town people expect the assessors will make them do, the town debt problem will be solved easily.

The advantages are all on the side of employing a non-antecedent locution. Not only does it result in greater clearness and strength, but it commonly produces better rounded sentences.



## ANTICIPATE

THIS is a much misused word. It is not a synonym of *expect*, *foresee*, *look forward to*, some of our lexicographers to the contrary notwithstanding. We do not, properly, *anticipate* a good time; we, properly, *expect to have*, or *look forward to having* a good time. We do not *anticipate* successes, failures, or storms; we *expect* them. If I know your sect, I *anticipate* your argument, said Emerson; whereas Emerson should have said, If I know your sect, I *foresee* your argument.

Properly used, *anticipate* means, to take beforehand; to go before so as to preclude; to get the start of, or to get ahead of; to enjoy, possess, or suffer in expectation; to foretaste.

The word is correctly used thus:

Seward, learning of the doings of the caucus, *anticipated* the action of the committee by sending in his resignation.—*Lothrop*.

If not *anticipated*, I shall make an attempt at a magazine paper on The Philosophy of Point.—*Poe*.

---

The chief portion of Professor Espy's theory has been *anticipated*.—*Poe*.

---

Why should we  
*'Anticipate* our sorrows? 'Tis like those  
Who die for fear of death.—*Shakespeare*.

---

But, after all, it may simply *anticipate* on the English of the future.—*Hall*.

---

It is well to have it understood that our municipal authorities had *anticipated* by practical work the proclamation issued by the President.  
*New York Sun*.

---

Politeness seeks the opportunity to please, and renders asking unnecessary by *anticipating* the wishes.

---

But ex-Senator Gorman's off-hand remarks on the politics of the day are always vague, for he was never inclined to *anticipate* events.

---

From all appearances, the proclamations *anticipate* the facts by only a short time, for each day shows more and more plainly the disintegra-

tion of the Boer forces and the increasing power of the British in the two republics.

---

During our Revolutionary War, Great Britain had to face a combination. In the course of that contest a Franco-Spanish fleet cruised triumphant in the British Channel, and, could the allies have agreed, or could they have been commanded by a man of even moderate *capacity* [ability], they might have *anticipated* Napoleon's dream, and ended forever the dominion of England.—*New York Sun*.

Here is an excellent example of the correct use of *anticipate*. *Capacity* is shown in quickness to perceive; *ability* is shown in quickness to do. *Ability* does what is perceived by *capacity*; *ability* supposes doing.

---

And so these people who pack up and get back to town with pleasant *anticipations* of settling down for the winter will be disappointed, just as they were last year and the year before.

This, doubtless, would be generally reckoned a correct use of *anticipations*, yet for my part, I should very much prefer *expectations*.

---

Tesla's plan for "insulation by freezing" was *anticipated* about two years ago by Prof. R. A.

Fessenden, so the *latter* [Professor] writes to The Electrical World.

---

I would not *anticipate* the relish of any, nor feel the weight of any misery, before it actually arrives.—*Addison*.

---

In the chapters allotted to New Zealand it is, indeed, surprising to remark to what an extent Sir Joseph Banks was able to *anticipate* what we now know of the Maoris.—*New York Sun*.

---

The results of the exploration will probably show that Nippur was as important in the fifth millennium before Christ as it was in the third, that it *anticipated* the civilization and the period when Babylon took the lead by at least two thousand years.

---

Our travelling restaurants have been *anticipated* many years by the Chinese purveyor of food, who carries his table on one end of a pole, balanced by his stove and cooking utensils on the other.

---

The Secretary for the Colonies *anticipated* inquiry on this last delicate question by saying that reasonable men would not ask the Government to fix a time for "full self-government."—*New York Sun*.

Secretary Gage announces that the Treasury will *anticipate* the payment of interest on bonds due January 1st.

---

What an admirable word *anticipate* is when properly used! But when it is made the word of all-work, as it is by the slovens, what an offensive word it becomes!

Examples of the correct use of *anticipate* are not easy to find; not so, however, with examples of its misuse. They abound. Here are some of the many I have gathered:

The dismemberment of China seems almost inevitable. It is not *anticipated* [expected] that Russia will withdraw in any circumstances, but will re-enforce her troops now occupying Manchuria.

---

No one *anticipated* [expected] that we *would* [should] attain our plurality of four years ago. This was abnormal and was largely *due* [owing] to the fact that but little concerted effort was made by the Democrats to get out their party vote.

---

An account *which* [that] is published by the headquarters staff of the occupation of Kerin and Bedune, Manchuria, by the Russians, concludes by stating that further hostilities in that country are not *anticipated* [looked for, or expected].

They do not *anticipate* [look for, or expect] any hostile demonstrations in either America or Great Britain, but they know, too, that unlimited immigration of oppressed Jews from Europe will not be permitted in either of those countries.

---

It is *anticipated* [expected] that the recognized government in China will be forced to make promises *which* [that] the anti-foreign element will not greet with favor.

---

There was no tendency, however, to congratulate *each other* [one another] on the fact that fewer miners had gone out than the union leaders expected. In fact, it was said that the strike is *no* [not] less serious than *has been anticipated* [it was thought it would be].

---

It will not be *as* [so] large as I *had anticipated* [expected], considering the fact that the party organization was so active and united. Four years ago the Democrats did not get out much *over* [more than] half of their vote.

---

The empress has ordered a commissioner to investigate the conduct of the southern viceroys, who entered into compacts with the foreign consuls *for the protection of* [to protect the] missionaries. *Their degradation is anticipated* [It is expected that they will be degraded].

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Did all the southern viceroys enter into compacts, or only a part of them? With the comma, the sentence says that they did; but this is evidence that has little weight. So long as the relative pronouns are used as they are now commonly used, ambiguous sentences similar to this will frequently be met with.

---

We do not *anticipate* [look for, or expect] any alternative, for we are a peaceful, law-abiding people. We shall be loyal subjects and we shall keep our part of the agreement.

---

I can not tell you how we expect to bring about this scheme, but I will say that I do not *anticipate* [look for, or expect] any further trouble. It is not yet entirely settled, but I am confident that we have overcome all obstacles.

---

Do you *anticipate* that the free coinage of silver will be an important issue in the next presidential campaign?—*New York Sun*.

The barbarity of this use of *anticipate* could not be overtopped.

---

These statesmen, as Mr. Foster reminds us, could not, in their times, *anticipate* [foresee] the

influence of two physical factors *which* [that] have since changed the whole aspect of the question of territorial expansion, to wit: steam and electricity.

---

The President has said that he does not *anticipate* [expect, or look for] any trouble with Spain over the Cuban situation.

---

An exceedingly interesting gathering is *anticipated* [expected].

---

It was evident from the actions of the crowd and the remarks made that a demonstration of some kind was *anticipated*.

Looked for, or expected.

---

Trade is paralyzed and many bankruptcies are *anticipated*. The French *chargé d'affaires* tried ineffectually to protect French interests.

Looked for, or expected.

---

"They were scared, and the man who had a small sum in a bank was scared worse than the man with a big *one* [sum]. They shied at the 16 to 1."

"You favored it. Did you *anticipate* [fore-see?] the result?"



Ex-Governor Levi P. Morton, of New York, said to-day that he could only speak reservedly on American affairs until his arrival home. He *anticipated* an early settlement of the Chinese question.

Looked for, or expected.

---

It is the worst of follies to allow the *anticipation* that other people's foolishness will render futile our own wise action to lure us into acting foolishly ourselves.

Expectation.

---

The statement that General Gaselee has stopped British *re-enforcements* arriving at Hongkong from proceeding farther north is taken as an indication that the British Government *anticipates* that the diplomatists will very shortly take the place now occupied by the military.

It is fair to presume that the writer of this sentence does not know that we have the word *expect*. *Re-enforcements* should be in the possessive case.

---

The provisions of the treaty are so eminently just and fair that the assent of Venezuela thereto may confidently be *anticipated* [expected].—*President Cleveland*.

The Reichstag will meet on November 14th, when stormy debates on China and violent attacks on the Government's policy are *anticipated*.

Expected. \_\_\_\_\_

O'Connell, who had long *anticipated* such a contingency, at once issued a proclamation in his own name countermanding the meeting.

Expected. \_\_\_\_\_

This activity *has been anticipated* and reported upon in letters August 25th, and cable August 31st.

Was foreseen? \_\_\_\_\_

No steam sizes of anthracite to be had, even now, it is reported. Plenty of stove sizes, but re-tailers *anticipate* a rise and, besides, may want to make some money.

Expect, or look for. \_\_\_\_\_

General MacArthur recalls the department's attention to his letters of last August, in which he *anticipated* a renewal of Filipino hostilities.

Predicted? To what a variety of uses the word is put!

*Anticipating* storms of an exceptionally dangerous character, all shipping on Lake Michigan has been advised to remain in port.

Fearing?

---

*Anticipating* that the properties of the Emigrés would be confiscated, he sold his castles and forest before the laws against the Emigrés were promulgated.

Foreseeing, or expecting, or fearing; certainly not *anticipating*.

---

The breaking of the concert is hardly to be *anticipated* unless the United States have in view some new combination of the Powers.

Expected, or, perhaps, feared.

---

The Opera House was owned by a stock company. It was newly fitted up at the opening of the season, and a successful year was *anticipated*.

Expected, or looked for.

---

Conditions at Galveston seem to be worse, if possible, than first *anticipated*.

Thought to be.

---

There had been more or less curiosity to see this new work of Rostand's, and it was easy to

*anticipate* that this, added to the usual demand for first-night seats, would make a brisk sale.

Foresee.

---

Judgment in his case was delivered on May 30th. O'Connell had not been mistaken when he *anticipated* that the punishment would be *a* severe *one*.

Predicted? The *a* and *one* are worse than useless.

---

No disturbance of Republican cart-tail meetings here *anticipated*. Maurice B. Blumenthal loads four issues on to his orators and gives them a sample of blague.

Expected, looked for.

---

Our enthusiastic correspondent seems to *anticipate* some very good results from the verdict of the people. He will not be disappointed.

Expect, look for.

---

These are some of the more important means of avoiding the revolution *which* [that] the writer *anticipates*.

Fears?

Had that fleet been as powerful as was generally believed and had Dewey met with the opposition that was *anticipated* [expected], he would . . . have endeavored to carry out his instructions.

---

The State Board of Charities has always been friendly to me and I *anticipate* no friction from this investigating committee.

It is not probable that Commissioner Keller used the word *anticipate*. He, probably, said he did not *look for* any friction.

Words might be likened to the employees of a large establishment where each has special duties to perform and where satisfactory service is possible only by restricting each to his special field.

## ERRORS IN TENSE

ERRORS in using the tenses are very abundant. The error most frequently met with is that of using the imperfect tense where the perfect tense is required.

Properly, we use the imperfect tense when the time is given: The tallest man I *saw* in Paris; the tallest man I ever *have seen*, i. e., anywhere, at any time. The perfect tense always reaches to the present; the imperfect tense is always limited by some specified period past and gone.

To use the imperfect tense, then, where the perfect is required is absolutely indefensible.

I never *saw* a more determined purpose than that pervading our membership.—*Charles A. Dana.*

Have seen. 

---

Mr. Rice was one of the most careful eaters I ever *knew*.

Have known.

Perhaps it never *occurred* to you that the charges at a first-class hotel are exceedingly low. Very possibly, on the other hand, it has struck you that they *were* [are] high.—*Home Journal*.

Has occurred. \_\_\_\_\_

We can equip your office with everything in office furniture you ever *saw*.

Have seen. \_\_\_\_\_

One of the saddest sights I ever *saw* was the placing of a \$300 rosewood piano in a country school in the South that was located in the midst of the "Black Belt."

Have seen. \_\_\_\_\_

The panic and period of depression would set in the morning after election. There would be a pell-mell rush to unload stocks and bonds and other securities the like of which *was never seen* in this country.

Never has been seen. \_\_\_\_\_

As religion has its martyrs, politics has its slaves, and among examples of such slavery the Hon. Richard Olney, of Massachusetts, is the most remarkable that we *ever heard of*.

Ever have heard.

All this imperialism and militarism talk is the worst tommyrot I *ever listened* to. No citizen of the United States, with as much brains as an ape, has the slightest fear that any President—Democrat, Republican, Populist, Prohibitionist, or what-not—is going to turn himself into an emperor, or that he could if he *wanted to* [would].

Ever have listened.

---

Roosevelt is a hero. He is one of the most successful campaigners that the Republican party *ever had*.

Ever has had.

---

John R. Walsh, president of the Chicago National Bank, says that he *never knew* a time when commercial paper was paid more promptly than to-day.

Never has known.

---

It is the only sensible book on the subject that I *ever saw*.

Ever have seen.

---

I wish to state that so far as the Democracy of the city of New York is concerned, there *never was* a time when it was more united and in accord.

Never has been.

---



Another common error is that of putting two verbs in a past tense, when only one should be in that time.

Those were parts *which* [that] might have been supposed *to have belonged* to me, as I had been here for several years before him.—*New York Sun*.

To belong.

The time is sufficiently indicated by the first verb—*were*. \_\_\_\_\_

In this case, how much wiser it would have been *to have taught* the girls in this community sewing, intelligent and economical cooking, housekeeping, something of dairying and horticulture!

To teach. \_\_\_\_\_

It is probable, however, that as soon as time enough has elapsed for the Czar *to have heard* from this Government the matter will be made public.

To hear. \_\_\_\_\_

They will prove our Nemesis for not having been wise enough and strong enough, for not having been right-minded enough and unselfish

enough *to have prevented* this war in the days when it might have been prevented.

To prevent. \_\_\_\_\_

If they did they may fairly claim, I think, to be the last amateur sportsmen *to have killed* a buffalo on his native range.

To kill. \_\_\_\_\_

It was the intention *to have captured* the city by Sunday, after which an immediate move was *to have been made* upon Porto Rico.

To capture. To be made. \_\_\_\_\_

It might have been wiser; it certainly would have been more dignified, *to have said* nothing, rather than *to have filled* the air with magniloquent phrases *which* [that] are not to be followed by *action* [acts?].

To say. To fill. \_\_\_\_\_

In the first place a representative of the Public Hack Owners' Union stood up and very rapidly recited a little speech to the effect that his organization deplored such occurrences, and that he deeply regretted that a gentleman of such prominence should be the first *to have felt* it

necessary to use the courage required to bring complaint forward in this public way.

To feel.

---

I think it would have been better for the G. A. R. committee *to have given* the name or names of the book or books from which the extracts quoted were taken and *to have named* the Southern schools that were using those specific books.

To give. To name.

---

At the time of the civil war the only way to secure peace was to fight for it, and it would have been a crime against humanity *to have stopped* fighting before peace was secured.

To stop.

---

There were police enough, mounted and on foot, *to have held* a small army in check.

To hold.

---

I would have given \$500 *to have landed* that fish.

To land.

---

Had any such feeling survived, the intention of Mr. O'Connell in making the communication

*which* [that] he had recently made would not have failed completely *to have extinguished* them.

To extinguish. \_\_\_\_\_

We *would* [should] have much preferred, and it would have been largely to our *financial* [pecuniary] interests, *to have done* the work on the whole of Broadway both night and day, more particularly at night.

To do. \_\_\_\_\_

Surely the plainer and more honorable course would have been *to have opposed* its ratification.

To oppose. \_\_\_\_\_

"If you were running your precinct properly there would not have been any place for him *to have gone* into to gamble," said the magistrate.

To go. \_\_\_\_\_

A Richard Mansfield would have imbued the mobs and courtiers who wandered woodenly through the acts with enough of his own fire *to have made* them seem almost human.

To make.

The pressure from every side was sufficient *to have carried* a light-weight President off his feet.

To carry. \_\_\_\_\_

They were *to have played* a scene from L'Aiglon at a benefit for the Texas storm sufferers, but it was impossible to find a suitable theatre.

To play. \_\_\_\_\_

Though often used as such, *were* never is a grammatical past or future subjunctive; at the best it is a reportorial subjunctive, except when used in the present tense.

The fish towed the light skiff as if it *were* a cork, making some swift dashes far under the boat.

Had been. \_\_\_\_\_

If Great Britain *were* defeated by the Boers she would be driven out of South Africa altogether.

Should be. \_\_\_\_\_

A young woman tried to drown herself in the North River yesterday. Before jumping in she

carefully gathered up her short skirt as if she *were* about to walk across a muddy street.

Had been. \_\_\_\_\_

He looked much as if he *were* ill, and it was said by his mother and sister, who were in the courtroom, that he should be sent to a hospital, as he was anything but a well man.

Was. \_\_\_\_\_

Should he decide to give up his visits, it would be a decided check to the diplomacy that planned them, and unless some counterstroke *were* made, would weaken its influences in the future.

Should be. \_\_\_\_\_

The use of the word "abuses" in the Quarto of 1864, indicates either that Shakespeare had the Hystorie before him when he wrote, or that the older play, if there *were* one—

Was. \_\_\_\_\_

The people of London were delighted at the repeal of the Stamp Act and it seemed as if all the trouble *were* at an end.

Was. \_\_\_\_\_

He was treated by all those around him with the greatest respect, as *though* [if] he *were* a

healthy, sane man; never a word about him was spoken in his presence, as he might possibly have understood.

Had been. \_\_\_\_\_

Just what form this open warfare will take can not as yet be definitely stated, but all Mulberry Street buzzed to-day with rumors that if the decision *were* adverse immediate action would be set on foot toward effecting the chief's removal.

Should be. There are writers that seem to think that *were*, whether the time be past, present, or future, is the only form of the verb *to be* that should follow *if*.  
\_\_\_\_\_

For more than two decades, indeed, contractors have complained that English firms *were* dilatory, and that Englishmen *would* [will] seldom leave their dinners or their sport for business.

Are. \_\_\_\_\_

One of the latter explained that Jews *were* not unlike Christians in that respect. Some *were* devout worshippers, others *were* more inclined to worship Mammon.

Are. \_\_\_\_\_

But if this be so the operators might meet on a friendly basis with the representatives of the

mine workers, show them they *were* unreasonable in their demands, wherein they *were* unreasonable, and all would be peace instead of strife.

Are.

---

The candidate could tell the Mayor that parties *were* essential to policy, that there *have always* [always have] been and always will be parties, and that any politician *who* [that] thinks he could get on without *them* [parties] is a dreamer.

Are.

Never use a word that sends the reader in search of an antecedent, if you can well avoid it. Such words always weaken the diction.

---

He said there *were now* forty-one companies in Richmond, with a membership of 4,000, and twenty-nine companies in Queens with a large membership.

Are now.

---

I remember reading years ago that with the ancients the practice existed of bringing out at all public banquets a cloaked and hooded figure, masked, with the skull and crossbones, to indicate that all human triumphs *were* ephemeral and that man *was* [is] but mortal.

Are.



The Kansas and Nebraska act of 1854 was sufficient notice, if any *were* needed, to the North, that the compromise measures of 1850 were not "finalities."

Was.

---

Mr. Coler was quite indignant about it. Mr. Coler said that if the Governor *were* quoted correctly, his remark was unfair.

Was.

---

The imperfect tense is often used when the thought requires the present.

He caused a sensation by his scathing arraignment of his former colleagues. He declared that followers of Bryan *were* [are] not entitled to a party name, being men of all parties who for the last twenty-five years *had* [have] nursed grievances. The chief issue in this campaign *was* [is] silver, he said, and "imperialism" *was* [is] only a scarecrow set up to obscure the real object. Expansion, he said, *had* [has] ever been a Democratic policy, and acquisitions of territory *had* [have] been made under Democratic administrations, without the consent of the governed.

---

The announcement of the Philippine Commission that it *was* about to assume legislative and appointive powers under the decree of Presi-

dent McKinley has pleased the business community.

Is.

---

The British will remember that General Sherman *informed* [told?] them what war *was* several years ago.—*The Chicago Record*.

Is.

---

And the fact that Mr. Belmont has repeatedly asserted that he *was* responsible for the opinions expressed in his paper is now giving that staunch free silverite more than his peck of trouble.

Is.

When this was written, the paper was appearing regularly, and Mr. Belmont's relations to it were unchanged.

---

He quoted Sobolkin, the great Russian reformer, who gave a description of Jews in Russian towns, and declared that they *were* worse off than any [other] people in the whole world.

Are.

---

Louis V. Bell made a bet of \$10,000 to \$25,000 with A. C. Tower, of Tower & Sherwood, on the general result, taking the Bryan end of it. It

*was* reported that the \$10,000 *was* money of Richard *Croker* [Croker's], but this *was* not admitted.

Is.

This is not a statement of what took place at some past time; it is essentially this: Bell bet yesterday, or this afternoon, and the story goes that the money is Croker's, but this is not admitted.

---

The Republican National Committee made no mistake when it called on Theodore Roosevelt to show the country the kind of stuff he *was* made of.

Is.

---

His physician, Dr. Burke, said last night that Mr. Faversham's condition *was* very favorable. Dr. Burke said that while he *was* not yet out of danger there *was* every hope of recovery.

Is.

---

A table of the fastest fifty-seven railroad trains in the world *which* [that] was printed in an English newspaper recently showed that England *was* no longer in the van.

Is.

Mr. Altgeld admitted sadly that Illinois *was* in doubt, and then he said that the wicked Republicans *had* [have] a campaign fund of at least \$25,000,000 with which they *intended* [intend] to corrupt the free and independent voters of the United States. Mr. Altgeld said that he *was* very much shocked at this, and then, without any particular reason, he said that he *was* very much dissatisfied with the manner in which Chairman Benjamin B. Odell of the Republican State Committee *was* acting in this campaign.

Is. Since the present is the most forcible of the tenses, it is a great mistake to put what is really present in the past.

---

Dr. Charles F., of New Jersey, corroborated last night the report printed in the newspapers that he *was* to marry Miss Mary E. W., the authoress. The doctor said that he and Miss W. *had* [have] kept their engagement a secret for the reason that she *was* at work writing a new novel, and *under* [in?] the circumstances to announce——

Is.

---

If you were to attempt to define a "trust," in all probability you would say it *was* a corporation designed or calculated to produce a monopoly.

Is.

Confucius would be called an agnostic now. He taught that there *were* four topics to be avoided.

Are.

---

He proposed that the testimony of Mrs. Cox be allowed and then stricken out later, if it *were* found to be illegal.

Should be.

No one will question the importance of using the verbs correctly. We commonly are understood when we do not use them correctly; so we may be, and often are, understood when we do not say just what we intend to say. The diction, however, is never good, unless the thought intended is clearly and grammatically expressed.

## ANXIOUS

THIS word is continually made to do duty for *desirous*, and that, too, by wellnigh everybody, by the lettered as well as by the unlettered. If used only when it should be used, *anxious* would not be used once where now it is used twenty times. On the other hand, if *desirous* were used when it should be used, it would be used twenty times where now it is used hardly once. Indeed, *anxious* has banished *desirous*—which, properly, is not even its synonym—from the vocabulary of many a one that is reckoned among good speakers.

Where there is *anxiety*, there is always dread, fear, mental distress, painful solicitude, apprehensive foreboding; whereas in *desire* there is only a wish, a longing, as a *desire* to be rich, to see the world, to be famous.

*Anxiety* and *solicitude* are close synonyms, *anxiety* being the stronger term.

Not infrequently, *anxiety* is used when *solicitude* would be the proper term.

Here are two sentences that I used in The Verbalist as examples of the correct use of *anxious*:

Then he was trying his 'prentice hand and was more *anxious* about the treatment than about the matter.—*Julian Hawthorne*.

Is not *anxious* too strong a term? Would not *concerned* or *solicitous* be quite strong enough? Of veritable *anxiety* there could hardly have been any.

---

Naturally she was *anxious* about the appearance he made in what is called society.—*Badeau*.

I am now inclined to think that the thought would be better expressed by *solicitous*. She was *solicitous* with regard to the appearance he made.

---

The office of the Monarch Line of steamships had many callers yesterday. They had friends or relatives on board the Lydian Monarch and were *anxious* in regard to their fate.

Here, no other word would serve.

The story of a man *who* [that] grew gray in the space of one night's *anxiety* is very famous.—*Spectator*.  
————

I am very sincerely *solicitous* for the *preservation* [preserving] or curing of Mr. Langton's sight.—*Johnson*.  
————

Of the many examples I have gathered of the misuse of *anxious*, here are a few:

We are *anxious* to make this point clear so as to avoid any disappointment.

Surely *desirous* is as strong a term as is here required. Of *anxiety* there can be none.  
————

Not that the benefits granted to Germany are important, as German wines chiefly are affected; but the agreement is taken as an indication that both the American and the German Governments are *anxious* to avoid a tariff war.

Desirous.  
————

The justices of the Supreme Court, who are most *anxious* to prevent any wrong practices in the divorce court, have for a long time been trying to formulate some plan to prevent the *court* [court's] being imposed upon and deceived.

Desirous.



Then will arise the question of details of the indemnities and means of security. Therefore the Chinese Commissioners are more *anxious* than the Powers to *hurry* [hasten] the negotiations to a close.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

One thousand tons of coal were mined in the two collieries *which'* [that] were in operation yesterday, and one mine is still working to-day. Mr. Thorne said that 80 per cent of his men were *anxious* and willing to get back.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Germany is not in favor of continuing hostilities in China. She is most *anxious* that the Powers agree upon a middle course, pleasing alike to those nations *which* [that] favor the occupation of Peking and those *which* [that] would like to withdraw.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

The property adjoins that of John D. Rockefeller, who is said to be *desirous* of getting rid of Melin and his saloon. The saloon keeper is *anxious* to sell, but it is said wants too high a price.

This writer evidently thinks that *desirous* and *anxious* are interchangeable. *Desirous to get.*

The great success of American jockeys has of course stirred up a little jealousy, but the majority of English racing men are, I am sure, *anxious* to treat us fairly.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Belief that he has now asserted his authority and will behead Prince Tuan. To leave the Empress Dowager at Singan-fu. No Power *anxious* to prolong the crisis.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Olney dismisses free silver at 16 to 1 without even mentioning it, lumping it with other minor differences of opinion *which* [that] may be overlooked by any Democrat *anxious* to remain with his party.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

For himself, being *anxious* to get the ordeal of his maiden speech over as soon as possible, he spoke on the very evening *when* [that] he entered Parliament.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

But however much the American heiress may pity the princeling who has placed his art treasures and himself at her feet, she will do well to

ask, "Would you be so *anxious* to marry me if you could sell your pictures?"

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Joseph Mason's office was surrounded last night by *over* [more than] five hundred people, all *anxious* to catch sight of a woman in man's clothes *who* [that] had caused the arrest of her husband for assault.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

But all of them are interested in the welfare of the Manhattan Club and are *anxious* to see it successful.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Moreover, England is *anxious* to enlist the intervention of the United States in the Chinese settlement, and she could not have looked for aid in this direction from Mr. Bryan.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

There was one thing he was particularly *anxious* to have made clear, and that was that he had not been in Mount Vernon since the night his defalcation was discovered.

Desirous.

Mr. Burdine was very *anxious* to have the mother back. She had long been a faithful and trusted servant.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

The reason for Michael's glee was that eggs are selling for 24 cents a dozen, and twenty-four dozen would cost \$5.76. He forgot that others besides Baker were *anxious* to see the fun, and that \$5.76 was but a small item among 150 men.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

The late king once remarked, it seems, that he was not particularly *anxious* to acquire all the youth and beauty of Siam himself, but, as so many of her fairest daughters had already been presented to him, he could not possibly refuse similar gifts in the future, as he did not wish to offend any of his subjects.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Boston has been very generous in the past in all such cases, and the mayor is *anxious* that the city shall maintain its reputation for open-handedness.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

We are most *anxious* to preserve our historical continuity, and we are far too patriotic

ever to dream of such a thing as denationalization.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

I am certainly as *anxious* to maintain the gold standard as you are.—*Carl Schurz's letter to Secretary Gage.*

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Wiggs—Why are you so *anxious* to be cast for the rôle of Hamlet?

Futlites—As I recollect the part, I get a chance to kill most of the other members of the company.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Of course I am very *anxious* to get married immediately. I told her, however, that I was willing to wait until she had finished this new novel.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

I am very *anxious* to make a success in the new piece, and if hard work will accomplish it I *will* [shall]. We begin rehearsals to-morrow morning, and there will be a lot of work before we *will* [shall] have it ready for the stage.

Desirous.

We are gathered here to-night as patriotic citizens, *anxious* to do something toward reinstating the prosperity of our fellow-countrymen, and protecting the fair fame of our nation against shame and scandal.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Bryan was so *anxious* to have this treaty ratified that he came in person to Washington to use his influence with the opposition Senators in its behalf, and he himself has admitted that he *was* responsible for its ratification.

Desirous. If he was, he still is, hence why not write *is*? \_\_\_\_\_

The Republican party is not afraid to meet any issue, past or present. I am always *anxious* myself to oblige my adversaries by discussing any subject they may select.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

The Government is *anxious* to have the negotiations transferred to some place remote from Peking, such as Brussels, Berne, or The Hague.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

For this reason he was so *anxious* to secure the contract that he was willing to pay liberally.

Desirous.

For some time past it has been known that Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff has been *anxious* to reorganize the party in Kings in order to attract to it the independent element for the coming municipal campaign.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

The Government is *anxious* to have some naval representation on the west side of the Isthmus during the present disturbed condition of political affairs in Colombia, but does not regard the situation as so serious as to demand immediate attention.

Desirous. \_\_\_\_\_

We write best when we say just what we would say and say no more. The frequency of our talking about Anxiety when we mean Desire, does not lessen its dictional sinfulness.

## FINANCIAL

HERE is a verbal invader that, probably, has as much to answer for as any other word in the language.

*Financial*, *pecuniary*, and *monetary*, though related in signification, are not interchangeable. A *monetary* transaction is one in which money changes hands; *pecuniary* refers to a transaction in which value is involved; *financial* is used in speaking of the money affairs, the finances, of a government and of private business enterprises of great magnitude. Successes are *pecuniary*, not *financial*, and we assist our friends *pecuniarily*, not *financially*.

Scores of others have been bribed by appointments to the Senate of Canada for life, and others by invitations to accept seats in the Cabinet, and hundreds of others by *financial* considerations expressed in public contracts, land grants, grants of timber lands, and mines of great value.

Had Sir John A. Macdonald offered the Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat a *financial* consideration for



his support of British connection he would have spurned it with contempt.—*Alice Stone Blackwell*.

Pecuniary, or money consideration.

---

One of the most serious features of the Galveston storm from a *financial* standpoint, is that there were scarcely a dozen storm policies held in the entire city, according to a statement of Mr. Charles Janvier, of this city, president of the Sun Insurance Company, of New Orleans, and one of the best-*posted* [informed] insurance men in the South.

Monetary, or money.

---

From the *financial* standpoint the college women married better than the non-college women.

Pecuniary, or worldly; certainly not financial.

---

It is alleged by the detectives that Mulhall, who, they assert, is Salman, received credit from a number of firms, who took the circular as a true statement of his *financial* responsibility.

Pecuniary.

---

The directors of the company operating the mill say that they kept the mill in operation dur-

ing the summer at a *financial* loss because they did not want to throw the girls out of work and in order to retain them for the busy season.

Pecuniary. \_\_\_\_\_

The men *who* [that] put up the money were the Hon. Richard Croker, Chieftain of the New York Democracy, and some of his political and *financial* friends.

Moneyed. \_\_\_\_\_

No one is *financially* interested in this latest undertaking but myself. Because of my experience I think I am more competent than any [other] manager or [any] architect in this city to build the kind of a playhouse the people want.

Pecuniarily. \_\_\_\_\_

The *financial* profit obtained by Secretary Long's refusal to accept the original bids is considerable.

Pecuniary. \_\_\_\_\_

We have now been paying these debts and bringing home many of our securities and establishing countervailing credits abroad *by* [with?] our loans, and placing ourselves *upon* [on] a sure foundation of *financial* independence.

Pecuniary.

At that time the Manhattan was housed in the Stewart Mansion at Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue, and was in a bad way *financially*.

Pecuniarily. \_\_\_\_\_

The company had been in *financial* difficulties for *over* [more than] a year, but through heavy advances had been kept afloat until after its through line had been completed.

Pecuniary, or money difficulties.

*Money*, so far as I know, is not recognized as an adjective, yet it would not require much courage so to use it.

News of Henry V as a *financial* success seems to have reached London. Lewis Waller, a popular actor there, says that he *will* [shall] revive the Shakespeare drama on a fine scale at the Lyceum.

Pecuniary. \_\_\_\_\_

The play will undoubtedly have a great *financial* success.

Pecuniary. \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor Castle, of the Post Office Department, made public to-day a statement *which* [that]

shows the entire *financial* result of the postal service for the year 1900.

Monetary. \_\_\_\_\_

Furthermore, all his *financial* obligations to the estate are to be cancelled.—*New York Sun*.

Pecuniary. \_\_\_\_\_

The President is not unmindful of the distressed *financial* condition of Spain, and whatever consideration the United States may show must come from its sense of generosity and benevolence, rather than from any real or technical obligation.

Spain was in want of money, hence her troubles were *pecuniary*; if she had been well supplied with money, but had had difficulty in managing her finances—if her finances had simply been in a tangle—her troubles would have been *financial*. Being in *financial* difficulties is, by a good deal, not so serious a matter as being in *pecuniary* difficulties. True, the thing that commonly makes financiering difficult is a lack of means. \_\_\_\_\_

As far as any one here knows, he is in that same *financial* condition to-day.

Pecuniary.

There will be a thorough canvass of the undergraduate and alumni bodies this fall for subscribers to the orchestra fund, and there is little fear that any *financial* deficit will ensue.

### Monetary.

---

Hinsdale being a small county and in *financial* straits, there is no regularly appointed deputy sheriff, so the imprisoned physician claims this office.

### Pecuniary or monetary.

---

We do not believe that it will be a failure. Its *financial* success for one year at least is secured in advance, *providing* [provided] the editor's innumerable friends do their duty at the beginning, and *providing* [provided] likewise that Mr. Bryan is careful that The Commoner does not degenerate into The Communist.—*New York Sun*, December 29, 1900.

### Pecuniary.

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It is quite as difficult, perhaps, always to use *financial*, *pecuniary*, and *monetary* correctly as it is to use *generally*, *commonly*, and *usually* correctly. Who is the he or the she that does it? *Financial* would be little used, if used only in its true signification.

## HURRY

As an invader, *hurry* is a close second to *anxious*. *Hurry* has crowded *haste* pretty nearly out of the vocabulary field. *Hurry*, if properly used, is a word that would be used rarely, whereas *haste*, now little used, is a word that would be used much, if *hurry* would but keep out of its field.

Though widely different in meaning, both the noun and the verb *hurry* are continually used in the sense of *haste* and *hasten*.

*Hurry* implies not only *haste*, but haste with confusion, flurry; to move or to act with injurious haste. Haste, to the contrary, implies only celerity of movement, despatch, speed, expedition, an eager desire to make progress. Unlike *hurry*, *haste* is not incompatible with dignity and deliberation. In *hurry* there is an absence of forethought and method. *Hasten* we often

should, but *hurry* never! Properly, then, we tell others to *make haste*, not to *hurry up*.

The bookkeeper may sometimes be in *haste*, but of all men he should never be in a *hurry*.—*J. M. Buckley.*

---

It is rough all around for Spain, so *much so* [rough] that we *could* [should?] not be surprised if Weyler were any day to jump into one of the cars of the railroad train *which* [that] is held in readiness for him, and *hurry* back to Havana.—*New York Sun.*

Hasten.

---

The aldermen are in no *hurry* to revive street music.—*New York Sun.*

Haste.

---

Though I am in a *great hurry*, I can not let the opportunity slip to let you know—

Great haste.

---

If you do not *hurry*, you will be late.

Hasten.

---

Delay will suit the Empress Dowager. But it is impossible to *hurry* matters in China.

Hasten.

When Chairman Stranahan rapped for order at 10.13 o'clock, delegates and spectators were still pouring into the building in a steady stream. The late comers were seated in *a hurry* and then Mr. Stranahan said——

Haste. \_\_\_\_\_

The correspondent of The Sun knows that pressure is being brought to bear on some of the Ministers by merchants in their own countries to *hurry up* the completion of the treaty.

Hasten. \_\_\_\_\_

The party leaders, the officers of the Convention, and the men who were to make the speeches were not in *a hurry*; most of them had been up until long after midnight, and this morning they slept late.

Haste. \_\_\_\_\_

She was without her hat and seemed to be in *a hurry*.

Perhaps she was flurried, and consequently in a hurry. \_\_\_\_\_

After declaring himself in this manner, the Democratic nominee *hurried* to make speaking



engagements for La Salle and Joliet for the evening of October 9th.

Hastened? \_\_\_\_\_

According to advices received here the Vice-roys have received urgent orders to *hurry* money to Singan-fu to pay the troops, who are believed to be mutinous.

Hasten. \_\_\_\_\_

Go slowly, there is no *hurry*.

Haste. \_\_\_\_\_

Returns from Mexico in a *hurry* and after a stormy conference lieutenant governor withdraws opposition.

Haste. \_\_\_\_\_

Immediately upon his arrival he conferred with some of his associates and then *hurried* off to Woodruff's home to have it out with the lieutenant governor.

Hastened. \_\_\_\_\_

Despite Mr. Nixon's statement there did not seem to be any *hurry* on the part of the gambling houses and poolroom keepers to get under cover.  
—*New York Sun*.

Haste.

Miles may answer Alger. The General says he is in no *hurry* to reply, but may *do so* [reply] later.

Haste. \_\_\_\_\_

The mind is *hurried* out of itself by a crowd of great and confused images.—*Burke*.  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Hurry*, whether as noun or as verb, is a word we should seldom have use for, if we used it to express only what it really means.

## THE POSSESSIVE

WE should always put pronouns and commonly nouns in the possessive case, when they precede verbal nouns, as they are called by some, participial nouns, as they are called by others, and infinitives in *ing* as they are called by still others. Sometimes we see the pronoun in the objective form—or case—and oftentimes we see the noun in no case at all; or, if you will, in any case you please, except the case, in grammatical strictness, demanded—the possessive. In such locutions as, *His coming* was not unexpected, *My going* depends on the weather, *John's leaving* made no difference, the possessive is imperative; but sometimes, in the interest of euphony, when nouns precede a participial noun, they are, purposely, not inflected. In the great majority of cases, however, when the inflexion is absent, it is the result of non-knowledge or of non-painstaking. The possessive

construction in these sentences is the primitive and regular form.

Sometimes the downtown barbers throw out broad hints about *it* being necessary to rehone the razor after a hard shave as a gentle inducement for a tip.

Its. \_\_\_\_\_

If you can get any kind of decent odds put some money up on McKinley; it is like finding it. Even out here in Colorado the odds are 3 to 1 on *him* winning.

His. \_\_\_\_\_

"That is ridiculous," said Mr. Croker. "I have not heard of *him* giving up and I *would* [should] certainly know of it."

His. \_\_\_\_\_

Yet he was compelled to say that the army corps that was engaged in the operations that day—some 30,000 men—was not in a condition *which* [that] would warrant *it* being sent abroad as fit to take the field.

Its. \_\_\_\_\_

His former cook sued him for \$5,000 for alleged indignities and last night had him arrested,

ostensibly to prevent *him* going to the Klondike.

His. \_\_\_\_\_

Moreover, as the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph points out, it would surpass the wit of man to prevent *them* knowing our movements, if not our intentions.

Their. \_\_\_\_\_

Nevertheless, there have been pretty well established cases of *it* having carried off young lambs and kids, and one has been shot while eating a rabbit *which* [that] it had just killed. Yet one naturalist *who* [that] watched the laemmergeier for twelve years never once saw the bird attack anything alive. The laemmergeier sometimes weighs sixteen pounds and has a wing expanse of *over* [more than] nine feet.

Its. \_\_\_\_\_

I am glad that some one has concerned *themselves* [himself] about the matter to express *their* conviction in a daily paper.—S. C. R.

His. \_\_\_\_\_

Late in August he gave out an interview declaring that if Mr. Bryan *were* [should be] President the gold standard law would offer no effec-

tive protection against the *country* being placed on a silver basis.

Country's. \_\_\_\_\_

The average American finds it hard to think patiently of an American *Minister* being extra civil to a sovereign whose hands smell of blood that *has smoked* [?] to the sky for vengeance. Congratulations to such an [a] one are only an absurd mockery.

Minister's. \_\_\_\_\_

The Berliner Tageblatt, Hamburgischer Correspondent, and other newspapers express in similar terms their satisfaction that Germany is saved forever from the possibility of Great *Britain* grabbing the Yangtse Valley.

Britain's. \_\_\_\_\_

But most important of all, these three notes say to the American people: You are weary of unctuous phrases. You are opposed to your *President* wandering about the Orient "outside [of] the Constitution."

President's. \_\_\_\_\_

It was just at this time that Captain Eason put in an appearance and prevented the bunco *game* being played any further.

Game's.

It sees no reason for any *Power* dissenting, and says it should especially be indorsed with alacrity by the Washington Government.

Power's. \_\_\_\_\_

He adds: "We see, then, that there was not the slightest hope for our *Government* behaving with any sort of magnanimity in the matter."

Government's. \_\_\_\_\_

Such a marriage affords *too splendid* [!] an opportunity to Germany to permit of any *effort* being spared to accomplish it.

Effort's. \_\_\_\_\_

Yet within the last few days he has been going around telling his audiences that the fact of American *money* going abroad for investment is a proof that the country is in a bad way.

Money's. \_\_\_\_\_

In a case like this where a false mark is put on the package, there is but little chance of the *sender* getting his loss made good.

Sender's. \_\_\_\_\_

In 1896 she prevented a man named Pietras from building a pier, and beat him when he car-

ried the case to the Court of Appeals. She also prevented another *pier* being built two years later.

Pier's. \_\_\_\_\_

I can not think for a moment there is any danger of such a *thing* happening.

Thing's. \_\_\_\_\_

Read this at midnight roll call and at the roll calls in the morning prior to the *men* leaving their stations for duty at the polling places.

Men's. \_\_\_\_\_

Miss FitzGerald had Adolph examined by the school medical inspector, who reported that there were no evidences of the *boy* being in danger.

Boy's. \_\_\_\_\_

She and her husband live apart, but he resented another *man* taking her out.

Man's. \_\_\_\_\_

*Previous to* [Previously to] that date it had occupied a small building across the street. The space was so limited here that it did not admit of a *railing* being placed around the teller.

Railing's.



The Gleaner further asserts that, instead of the *revenue* being honestly expended, there has been more extravagance and corruption than *was ever before witnessed*.

Revenue's. Than ever before had been witnessed.

---

The people are opposed to this *Government* acquiring territory *which* [that] is not to be governed by our Constitution. It has no more constitutional right to set up a colonial system than it has to *create* [make?] a king.

Government's.

---

This led to the *heroine* recalling how the two brothers, then in a wordy war with *one another* [each other], used to form with their hands a seat on which to carry her about.

Heroine's. *Each other*, when it is a question of two only.

---

One can not have good or bad fortune without the *other* being in the same box.

Other's.

---

It sometimes happens that flesh becomes poisonous from the *animal* having fed *upon* [on] noxious substances shortly before it was killed.

Animal's.

The boy insisted on the *bookmaker* taking the \$100 and putting it all on the cheap thoroughbred that he thought had a chance of winning the handicap.

Well, the horse that the kid had picked *only won by* [won by only] about half a block at 30 to 1, that's all.

Bookmaker's. \_\_\_\_\_

My reason for giving so many examples of this simple error is the exceeding frequency with which we meet with them. Reportorial English teems with them.

## CAPABLE—SUSCEPTIBLE

THE Standard Dictionary defines *capable* thus: Possessing power or capacity to do, perform, or undergo; as, he is *capable* of any crime; *capable* of improvement [improving?].

From which it would seem that *capable*, when properly used, is used only in an active sense. In the passive sense, the proper word to use is *susceptible*.

*Capable* of being defended.—*Webster's Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being defended.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being protected against outward violence; *capable* of vindication.—*Worcester's Dictionary*.

Properly: Susceptible of being vindicated, of being protected.

*Capable* of being destroyed.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being surmounted.—*Century Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of solution, as a problem.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being set on fire.—*Worcester's Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being ignited.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being ignited.—*Webster's Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being solved; *capable* of being paid.—*Webster's Dictionary*.

Susceptible.

*Capable* of being corrected or set right.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being comprehended.—*Webster's Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being grasped or comprehended by the mind.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being explained.—*Worcester's Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being reversed. That may have direction or position reversed; that may be used in some way opposed to the normal or usual way.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being apprehended or grasped.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being understood.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible.

*Capable* of being reduced.—*Webster's Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being set right or amended.—*Webster's Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

*Capable* of being corrected or amended.—*Worcester's Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

The trouble about the word is that it is not *capable* of any definition. You can tell a "bounder" when you see one. But it is impossible to say what a "bounder" is.

Susceptible of being defined.  
\_\_\_\_\_

When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman? The poetic interrogation, frequently propounded, has never, we believe, been *capable* of satisfactory solution.

Susceptible of being satisfactorily solved.  
\_\_\_\_\_

They are *capable*, too, of enduring great heat and for that reason grow well in sub-tropical and tropical countries.

Correctly used.

Not *capable* of being divided without losing identity.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

A vivid-hued, sometimes a many-colored, scarf, often of immoderate length, *capable* of being wound around and around the youthful neck or over the head and ears and neck—that was a tippet.—*New York Sun*.

Susceptible. \_\_\_\_\_

To my surprise, I find that not only the Standard, Worcester, and Webster use *capable* in the passive sense, but the word is used in like manner in the Encyclopædic and in the Century and by Johnson and by Murray. Indeed, in all the dictionaries *capable* is made to do double duty—for itself and for *susceptible*.

Now if the dictionary way of using *capable* be correct, it is also correct to say that coffee is capable of being ground, that sugar is capable of being dissolved, that lead is capable of being melted, and that iron is capable of being welded. If it be proper to use *capable* in a passive sense, what use have we for *susceptible*?

## PROPOSITION—PROPOSAL

THE word *proposition* is much misused in the sense of *proposal*. Indeed, it is quite certain that more than half the time *proposition* is improperly used.

A *proposition* is something to be considered; a *proposal*, something to be acted on.

We admit or deny the truth of a *proposition*; we accept or reject a *proposal*.

Here is a writer that, seemingly, looks on *proposition* and *proposal* as being interchangeable:

The German Government has indicated to the United States that it will submit a new general *proposition* [proposal] in regard to the *settlement* [settling] of the Chinese troubles, which will, it is understood, take the place of the German *proposal* to punish the leaders of the anti-foreign outbreak as a condition precedent to peace negotiations.

Better: With regard to *settling* the Chinese troubles.



Examples of the correct use of *proposition* are not easily found. Here are what I have:

Surely there is nothing startling, to persons familiar with the principles of American constitutional law, in the *proposition* that even a great city may not take away a man's private property without paying for it.

---

Her success as a clergyman was immense; only second, indeed, to her success in personally proving the *proposition* that a woman can't work at all, apparently, without overworking.

---

That woman is as much man's inferior intellectually as she is physically is a *proposition* the truth of which is generally admitted.

---

It is dangerous for a debater to affirm a universal *proposition*, since that can be negated by a single exception.

---

Herbert Spencer, and many other thinkers before him, have shown that if we try to realize the absolute nature of the simplest phenomena, we are inevitably landed either in a contradiction or in some unthinkable *proposition*.

---

Thus, his main *proposition* that Christianity is necessarily superior to all other systems be-

cause it is Divine is obviously based primarily on his own "sentiment" or inward feeling or conviction due to his religious faith, and not on any rational facts.

---

Examples of the misuse of *proposition* abound.

Then he applauded the *proposition* of the Democratic platform to establish a "Department of Labor" with its head a Cabinet officer.

Proposal.

---

The next *propositions* are that the forts at Taku and the other forts on the coast of Chi-Li shall be razed and the *importation* [importing] of arms and war material prohibited.

Proposals.

---

In one of his reports Judge Taft refers to the *propositions* of peace submitted by a number of leading Filipinos, and also tells of the feast of amnesty *which* [that] followed the *issuance* [issuing] of the amnesty proclamation.

Proposals.

---

An official note announces that France, Italy, and Austria have formally assented to the *propo-*

sitions in the German note for the *punishment* [punishing] of the leaders of the recent outbreak before beginning peace negotiations.

Proposals. \_\_\_\_\_

The nations, with the exception of Austria and Italy, declined to accept the German *proposition* that the Powers undertake *the punishment of* [to punish] the anti-foreign leaders before peace negotiations should be instituted. As Germany has now so modified her *proposition* as to remove the feature to which the Powers objected, it is regarded certain that there will be a harmonious agreement.

Proposal. \_\_\_\_\_

The Rev. W. F. Graham (colored) was asked to-day what was the feeling among the colored people of the city concerning the *proposition* of Miss Lillian Clayton Jewett to come here and make one of her famous speeches.

Proposal. \_\_\_\_\_

And the *proposition* in the Municipal Assembly of New York to abolish the name of old Elm Street and substitute the name of "Dewey Avenue" exemplifies the third class.

Proposal.

The *proposition for the creation of the office of State Auditor* is defeated.

The proposal to create.

---

It is learned here that the discussion now proceeding in Berlin of an alleged American *proposition* to limit the occupying forces in China to 1,000 in Peking, 2,000 outside the walls, and 20,000 elsewhere is not based upon any plan suggested by the State Department here. It can be said positively that such a *proposition* has not figured in the diplomatic negotiations.

Proposal.

---

The diplomatic negotiations looking to an amicable settlement of the Chinese troubles centre in the *proposition* of Germany that the Chinese Government be made to surrender the leaders of the anti-foreign uprising. There is a strong feeling of hope here that Germany will modify her *proposition*.

Proposal.

---

Russia has made a *proposition* to the United States as to a plan of solving the Chinese difficulty which the Cabinet considered in a special session to-day.—*New York Sun*.

Proposal.

It is thought here that the United States secured considerable advantage by promptly replying to Russia's *proposition*.—*New York Sun*.

Proposal. \_\_\_\_\_

The amended canal treaty is the American *proposition* to Great Britain.—*New York Sun*.

Proposal. \_\_\_\_\_

The using of *proposition* when one means *proposal*, will commonly, perhaps always, suffice to convey the thought intended; but the would-be fine young woman that says she "has saw" can defend her diction with the same argument.

## PREVIOUS TO

THE adjectives *previous*, *subsequent*, *independent*, *antecedent*, *relative*, and possibly others are often erroneously used in an adverbial sense. When used adverbially they should have the adverbial termination.

The captain is very severe upon the conduct of the English after the battle, but *independently* of such strictures his narrative is very interesting as a description of a part of the great naval battle.—*New York Sun*.

Not *independent of*, as we often see it. *Independent* is never anything but an adjective.

---

More influential still, in this way, have been the growing scarcity of gold *relatively to* the need of it.—*President E. Benjamin Andrews*.

Unusual, but correct. *Relative* is an adjective when not a noun, and when used adverbially must have the adverbial inflection.

Of these phenomena, the most important are the failure of Great Britain to maintain her financial and industrial preponderance *relatively* to her competitors, and the evidence that the seat of wealth and power is migrating westward, and may even now have entered America.

---

Without reference to the Hay-Pauncefote negotiations, and *independently* of the provisions or restrictions of the proposed treaty, the Hepburn bill authorizes the President to acquire from Costa Rica and Nicaragua the necessary territory.—*New York Sun*.

---

The size of the Democratic majority *relatively* to the past was of no consequence, even in the estimation of the Democrats of Arkansas.—*New York Sun*.

---

Pekin—Germany's proposal is not acceptable to this Government, and Minister Conger may be instructed to begin peace negotiations, *independently* of the other Powers.

---

Examples of the other sort are more abundant.

But I am sorry to say that George Ripley no longer possessed the fine library that he had *previous* to our experiment; it was sold to pay off the creditors.—*Charles A. Dana*.

Previously to.

On August 28th last, Minister Taylor, at Madrid, learned at a dinner given by the British Ambassador to the representatives of the foreign Powers that two or three days *previous* the Prime Minister of Spain had.—*New York Sun.*

Previously. \_\_\_\_\_

At the last official dinner given by Bismarck *previous* to this fall, the Emperor gathered about him a group from which the Chancellor held aloof.—*New York Sun.*

Previously to. \_\_\_\_\_

The mayor will review the parade of the Knights of Labor, which passes City Hall an hour *previous* to the time set for that of the Central Labor Union and Building Trades Council.

Previously to. \_\_\_\_\_

First, aim to correct any mannerisms, any absolutely discordant conditions in the presence, action, or speech *independent* of any system.—*New York Sun.*

Independently of. \_\_\_\_\_

A younger contemporary of Herodotus was Hellenicus of Mytilene, whom Thucydides men-



tions as almost the only historian *who* [that] had treated of the period *subsequent* to the Persian wars.

Subsequently to.

---

Petition of Li and the other viceroys submitted to the throne at this meeting, *subsequent* to the appointment of Tuan and Chwang.

Subsequently to.

---

For the last year, Mr. Rice drew only six or eight checks a month, but *previous* to last year he would send from fifteen to twenty checks through our bank, and was what we *would* [should] term a comparatively active depositor.

Previously to.

---

The great epochs that mark the history of Constantinople *previous* to its capture by the Turks may be indicated in a paragraph.

Previously to.

---

The origin dated long *previous* to the Jackson campaign, for nearly fifty years *previous* the best tobacco and the best rum came from Aux Cayes, and the best of everything was designated as Aux Cayes, or O. K.

Previously.

She lived at the Park Avenue *previous* to her last marriage. After that event she left the hotel with her young husband.

Previously to. \_\_\_\_\_

The lawyers refuse to disclose the terms of settlement *previous* to the meeting of the bank directors to be held next week. Mrs. Schreiber, the mother of the defaulter, who was prostrated when her son's crime became known, is still suffering *with* [from] heart trouble.

Previously to. \_\_\_\_\_

*Previous* to the present Chinese trouble what influence, if any, had Secretary Hay exerted toward *the establishment* of [establishing] the "open door" in China?

Previously to. \_\_\_\_\_

*Previous* to the death of Beha-u'llah he made many prophecies, and all of them came true, say his followers.

Previously to. \_\_\_\_\_

He recalled that the Socialists alone disapproved the Emperor's telegram to President Kruger in 1896, *subsequent* to the Jameson raid.

Subsequently to.

Having read one of Mr. Charles Reade's novels (the title of which I forget), I wish to inquire whether white slavery existed in this country *previous* to the Revolution (1776) or not.

Previously to.

---

Directors refuse to give details of the negotiations with the United States. Some urge that the canal be finished *independent* of any action by this Government.

Independently of.

---

It is safe to say that we meet with the incorrect form of these adverbs ten times where we meet with the correct form once. Indeed, we are so used to seeing and hearing the incorrect form that the correct form not infrequently is disturbing.

## GENERALLY

It is a common thing to see the word *generally* used where one of its synonyms would better serve. Indeed, there are persons, among them some clever writers, that seem to have little or no acquaintance with any of Generally's kinship. It is easier to write in an indiscriminating way, but that is not a good way to choose if one would produce what the world always has been readiest to applaud and most willing to pay for—quality.

I am often in doubt whether I should use *commonly*, *generally*, *usually*, or *ordinarily*, but I am sure I more frequently use the right word of the four than I should if I were not of opinion that there is always a best one of the four to use in any given sentence.

The distinctions between these words may, perhaps, be intimated thus:

*Commonly* is opposed to rarely or exceptionally.

*Generally* to restrictedly.

*Usually* to occasionally.

*Ordinarily* to exceptionally or rarely.

*Commonly* and *ordinarily* are very closely allied.

The American eagle—that is, the so-called bald-headed eagle, which is not bald-headed at all—is a fish-eating bird *generally*, though it will not disdain flesh when it can get it.

Commonly? \_\_\_\_\_

A certain portion of the wages was *generally* advanced as earnest money.

Commonly? \_\_\_\_\_

The Post, which is known as the Ambassadors' organ, and is *generally* well informed, semi-officially states that the dispute between Field Marshal Count von Waldersee and General Chaffee, growing out of *the latter's* [General Chaffee's] letter to the German commander in relation to—

Ordinarily? \_\_\_\_\_

He is a conservative Republican, very careful in his estimates, and his figures have *generally* proved to be strikingly accurate.

Commonly?

In the case of the man, as *generally* in Semitic law, the opportunity for divorce was theoretically unlimited.

Commonly or ordinarily.

---

Foreign press comment upon American national character is *generally* the reverse of flattering, even when it appears in English publications. Yet even those journals *which* [that] are most hostile in their criticism concede that Americans possess certain qualities *which* [that] place them in some respects in the front rank of nations.

Commonly or ordinarily.

---

While it is *generally* most convenient to be able to light all the stair lights from any story, it may in some cases be thought undesirable to have to light all the upper landings if only one flight of stairs is to be used.

Commonly or ordinarily.

---

Of the contract for rent there were various forms. Houses were *generally* rented for one year, though, occasionally, the lease ran for a longer period. A certain portion of the rent for the term was *generally* paid in advance.

Commonly?

"Sporty" McAlister was what he was called, and he was very often seen *on* [in] the streets in the evening, *generally* in the neighborhoods frequented by young girls.

Commonly? \_\_\_\_\_

He *usually* goes to Philadelphia every Monday.

\_\_\_\_\_

I am a great believer in sleep. I *usually* go to bed early and rise late.

\_\_\_\_\_

Ill-used, because over-used, *generally* is properly used thus: It is *generally* known; it is *generally* believed; it is *generally* accepted; it is *generally* regarded.

The opinion *generally* prevails, in my neighborhood, that McKinley will be our President for another four years.

\_\_\_\_\_

Until recently, it was the *generally* accepted belief, throughout the Christian world, that the world was made in six times twenty-four hours.

\_\_\_\_\_

It is *generally* understood that the law is aimed at the executive council, to prevent that body from acting in an executive and legislative capacity.

The distinction that should be made in using these words is often very delicate, too delicate indeed for it always to be made even by the cleverest and most painstaking. Nevertheless, however delicate the distinction, it is none the less worth while to try to make it.



## APPRECIATE

If any word in the language has cause to complain of ill-usage, *appreciate* has. *Appreciate* can not, properly, be employed with a limiting, a qualifying word—i. e., with an adverb, since the word means to estimate *justly*; to set the *true*, the *real* value on men or things. An overestimate, therefore, is no more appreciation than is an underestimate. He that *appreciates* justly estimates, and justly to estimate one must weigh the demerits as well as the merits.

“We *appreciate* him highly”—a locution often heard—is nonsense. “We have great regard for him,” or, “We think a great deal of him,” or, “We hold him in high esteem.”

We *value* things highly, and we *prize* things highly, but we do not *appreciate* things highly.

Such proofs of kind and generous feeling are naturally most *highly prized* by me and will for-

ever be cherished in my memory.—*Albert Edward.*

---

I number him among my most *highly valued* friends.

---

She said she *greatly appreciated* [fully appreciated] all we were doing for her country and her people.

All this only shows how much Queen Victoria thinks of what Americans are doing in getting this hospital ship, and how much she *appreciates* [values] any expression of good feeling from America.

---

Singing birds are *esteemed* in all countries, but in Japan the musical sounds emitted by certain insects are *appreciated*.

Bettered, but not mended, by using *prized* where the writer has used *esteemed* and *appreciated*.

Unskilled writers are commonly far too solicitous to avoid tautophony. The re-using of a word often betters the diction; in part, too, because the sound is repeated. When one has a word that fully expresses one's thought, as a rule, it is better to *re-use* it than to *use* a synonym.

Should I write, "than to employ"? I do not think so, though *employ* would serve as well, as far as the thought is concerned. Note the circumstance that the first *use* is under the emphasis, whereas the second is barely touched in the utterance. This suffices to prevent any monotony there might otherwise be.

---

If one would *appreciate* how thoroughly the entire industrial system depends upon iron, let him imagine what the world would be to-day without it.

Here is a writer that probably makes *appreciate* do duty for a considerable list of words. In this instance, *realize*, I fancy, would have been a good choice to make.

---

"You can *appreciate*," said Kerr, "that we naturally have nothing to give out."

Not *appreciate*, certainly; perhaps *understand*.

---

He *appreciated* that his countrymen had a claim on his memory.

Realized, or, was not unmindful.

A little care should certainly suffice to enable any one to avoid the misuse of *appreciate*. The signification of the word is so simple!

## DICTION

*Diction*, according to the dictionaries—and what they say on the subject has never been questioned—is the manner of using words; is especially that department of rhetoric that treats of the choosing and arranging of words. We speak of the *diction* of a book, an essay, a drama, a speech, meaning the manner in which and the felicity, or the lack of felicity, with which the speaker or writer has expressed his thought. This is the only sense in which, until recently, so far as I know, the word *diction* ever has been used.

“*Diction*,” says Johnson, “being the vehicle of the thoughts, first presents itself to the intellectual eye.”

When the word *diction* is used as it is used in the following examples, what is it intended to mean?

Mr. Mann had gained a reputation as an elaborate disguiser of himself and as a speaker of

astonishingly broken English. He appeared in this piece in much the same aspects of droll visage and awkward physique, but his *diction* was markedly improved in amusing value, because its tedious slowness and reiteration were gone and all its funniness was retained.

---

Quite apart from its great success as a song, Rhoda and Her Pagoda, as Miss Ashley rendered it, was a delicious piece of acting. Somehow or other, this little girl, since she graduated from the newsboy ranks in "1492," has learned what *diction* means. Yvette Guilbert herself could not have got more meanings—either single or plural—out of this remarkably clever song.

---

Shall we ever have another actor with Booth's wonderfully facile and expressive *diction*?

---

He begins to speak more rapidly, his eyes brighten, and the long sentences *which* [that] roll from his lips are as pure in *diction* as if he were on the stage delivering in classical style the sentences he reads so wonderfully.

The French have a word that presents the same appearance to the eye that the English word *diction* presents. They use it where a writer content to confine himself to English would use *delivery*, *utterance*, or

*elocution.* This may possibly account for the “new meaning” in which certain writers use this good old English word. For the benefit of the average reader—for a time at least—the innovation should be accompanied by an explanatory foot-note.

## NONE

THE word *none* is commonly treated as a plural, as, "*None* of them *were* his equals." Though *none* is a contraction of *not one*, construing *none* as a singular in a sentence like this antagonizes established usage. Instead of using *none* as a singular, it is better to write *not one* or *no one*, which, besides being more idiomatic, is more emphatic.

*None* of these conditions *are* at present fulfilled. We do not know who or what is the actual Government of China. The reports *which* [that] reach us on this subject continue to be untrustworthy and conflicting.—*London Times*.

---

Thus it happens that none of the Cordilleran States from Venezuela to Chili *has* as yet emerged from the stage of rough, pioneer exploration.

Have.

---

The European papers are now discussing the problems that confront the Powers since the occu-



pation of Pekin. None of them *appears* to favor the Russian proposal to withdraw from the Chinese capital.

Appear. \_\_\_\_\_

No man here expects to see Coler nominated. None *claims* more than 150 votes for him.

Claim. \_\_\_\_\_

None of the boys *is over* fourteen years old, and young Meehan is only seven. Their parents are all respectable people.

Are more than. \_\_\_\_\_

It is midway in merit among them, and, although none of the others *has* won success in a distinctly fashionable New York theatre, Mr. Herne has the advantage of an adulatory following.

Have. \_\_\_\_\_

True, the rôle of Beckmesser is not a severe test of the voice, but of all the rôles in comic opera none perhaps *is as* difficult from the purely dramatic viewpoint.

Are so. \_\_\_\_\_

The same is the case with Kerr. None of his relatives *has* called to see him.

Have.

None of the relatives of the accused *was* present except Judge John F. Kerr, brother of George Kerr, and his counsel.

Were. \_\_\_\_\_

None of the proposals *which has* been made at Washington, except this violation of a principle of international law, if it ever was suggested, excites any resentment here.

That have. \_\_\_\_\_

Of the eighteen persons referred to as still missing in The Sun yesterday none *has* yet been accounted for.

Have. \_\_\_\_\_

None of those named by Charles Stewart Smith *has* as yet announced his intention of declining to serve on the committee.

Have. \_\_\_\_\_

Neither "none have" nor "not one has" is offensive to anybody, whereas "none has" is offensive to many, if for no other reason than because it conflicts with habit. It is always unwise to make use of any form of expression that, in any degree, is calculated to divert the reader's, or the listener's, attention.

There is one of our big dailies that seemingly is adverse to printing a plural verb with *none* under any conditions, yet this same daily prints dictional errors of every description. Its columns teem daily with auxiliary verbs misused. Somebody said something once about a gnat and a camel. If the saying doesn't apply here, it's only because there is no gnat.

## INDIVIDUAL

THE word *individual*, as a noun, is properly used in contradistinction to collective terms. It is often improperly used where *person* or *man*, for example, would be the proper word.

The rules applicable to a corporation must be the same as would be applied to an *individual* in a similar case. There can be no question in the present case that if the defendant were an *individual*, there is no way in which his acts could be held illegal.—*New York Sun*.

Properly used.

---

The industries of a nation depend upon the actions of an aggregation of *individuals*. When the *individual* considers an expenditure for a permanent improvement, and finds that improvement will cost 50 per cent to 100 per cent more than it would have *done* [cost] a year before, or is likely to *do* [cost] a year later, he acts, and that action is almost invariably a postponement of that improvement.

Properly used.

It is to the Mormons as a sect that I object, and not as *individuals*, for among them I have met many excellent persons.

Properly used. \_\_\_\_\_

Changes, both in *individuals* and in communities, are often effected by trifles.

Properly used. \_\_\_\_\_

Action by State and *individual* must go hand in hand.

Properly used. \_\_\_\_\_

Great events affect *individuals* as well as nations.

Correctly used.

*Individual* is opposed to what is divisible into parts. Etymologically, it means that that can not be divided.

\_\_\_\_\_

When the Jehu got into the dispute with his fare, two other rough-looking *individuals* appeared on the scene and took the part of the former [Jehu].—*New York Evening Sun*.

Men or fellows. \_\_\_\_\_

To this, of course, there have been many notable exceptions, for endurance of sight, like any

form of physical strength, differs greatly in different *individuals*.

Persons. \_\_\_\_\_

There are physical limits to the executive energies of any *single individual*, and, broadly speaking, there are limits beyond which it is not safe to test the administrative *capacity* [ability] of a single head.

Any man. The *individual* is always single. \_\_\_\_\_

There are two or three circumstances under which the editor appears to be an agreeable *individual*.—George H. Westley.

Person. \_\_\_\_\_

This proceeding is usual, it seems, at such audiences, and the fact that so many *individuals* hear everything, even at the most important interviews, accounts for the impossibility of keeping secret anything that happens at the Tsung-li-Yamen in regard to political or other affairs.

Persons. • \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord Mayor is a very busy *individual* and the following list is a thoroughly authentic account of some of the functions in which a recent Lord Mayor took part.

Person or man.

There was nothing of the jaunty air *which* [that] first distinguished William T—— about that interesting *individual* this morning when he was seen in the city prison.—*New York Evening Sun*.

Person.                    \_\_\_\_\_

The public trustee is a corporation, and it is immaterial whether the *individual*, for the time being holding the office, disappears, resigns, or dies, the corporation continues.

Man or person.                    \_\_\_\_\_

Using *individual*, when one should use *person* or *man*, is not quite so objectionable as it is to use *party*; but the difference is not great.

## IN RESPECT OF

IF I knew how to hit the locution "In respect of" any harder than George P. Marsh hits it in his Lectures on the English Language, I should not quote Marsh, who says:

"The deliberate introduction of incorrect forms, whether by the coinage [coining] of new or the revival [reviving] of obsolete and inexpressive syntactical combinations, ought to be resisted even in trifles, especially where it leads to the confusion [confusing] of distinct ideas. An example of this is the recent use of the adverbial phrases *in respect of*, *in regard of*, for *in* or *with* respect *to*, or regard *to*. This innovation is without any syntactical ground, and ought to be condemned and avoided as a mere grammatical crotchet."

Much would depend on the rapid flow of blood in the case of the head of the guillotined criminal in respect of the existence of movement or consciousness.

To.



There was not any appreciable improvement in to-day's stock market in respect *of* activity but a distinctly better tone was evident in the dealings.

To. \_\_\_\_\_

It admits the principle that, in respect *of* South American republics, the United States may not only intervene in disputes, but——

To. \_\_\_\_\_

In respect *of* area, indéed, the French colonies much exceed the Dutch.

To. \_\_\_\_\_

In the Periclean age no writer on morals or physics can be compared in respect *of* style with Plato, who belongs to the next generation.

To. \_\_\_\_\_

You will see that I ask for no change in the conditions, as I was perfectly satisfied with all the arrangements made on the last occasion and in respect *of* which the New York Yacht Club was so deservedly congratulated.

To. \_\_\_\_\_

Every reader of the papers, too, knows of your action as Governor in respect *of* the Ice Trust.

To.

There is indeed one striking difference in respect *of* custom.

To.

---

Even if "In respect of" were as idiomatic as "In respect to," the fact that the one locution is offensive, at the least, to some, while the other locution is offensive, it is certain, to none, should, it would seem, suffice to determine one's choice.

## FEELS BADLY

WE frequently see, and more frequently hear, adverbs used where the qualifying word should be an adjective. In grammar it is always the thought that determines. He that says, "She looks badly or miserably" means that she looks to be in a bad or miserable physical condition. "She looks sadly or gladly or madly" is not more incorrect. The thought is, "She has the appearance of being glad, or sad, or mad." The noun, then, not the verb, is the word qualified.

From the last hole the wind smelled so *strongly* [strong] of gas that the drillers were unable to work over it.—*Pittsburg Dispatch*.

If this be correct, then we should say, The butter smells or tastes *sweetly*.

---

The oil used was that of the cocoanut, in which some sweet-smelling woods or flowers had **been** infused. Most commonly, however, it was

very rancid. Hence the wearers of it smelled *unpleasantly* [unpleasant], but Banks found that he soon got reconciled to it.—*New York Sun*.

The oil did not really *smell*; it was smelt, and to the smeller it was unpleasant.

---

When taken home and skinned the carcass weighed 246 pounds, and it smelled so *strongly* of checkerberry that Nye's family had to go out doors to breathe while the work of dressing it was going on.

Strong.

---

"Now," as he there said himself, "thanks to my misfortune, one can see me *nakedly* as I am."  
—*Lord Rosebery*.

Naked. Grammatical French, probably, translated into ungrammatical English.

---

I wish you would deny for me that story that Mr. Jiggins committed suicide on my account. I heard about his death before I left, and as he had been a friend of mine I naturally felt very *badly*.

Bad.

---

It sounded *strangely* to the listeners in the courtroom to hear the girl in giving her testi-

mony speak always as she did of "papa, mamma, and the baby."—*New York Sun*.

Strange. That is, It had a strange sound to the listeners.

---

Why, then, does he suddenly feel so *badly* about the Philippines?

Bad.

## OF THE NAME OF

THE locution, "Of the name of" is met with frequently, and the locution, "By the name of" is met with occasionally. The first is objectionable, the second—nearly always—erroneous. Nearly always, the one word *named* is all that is required.

We might know a man *of* the name of, or *named*, Jones *by* the name of Smith. That is, the man we know by the name of Smith might really be named Jones.

Accompanied by a young man *of the name of* Gaerin she attended the theatre last night and after the performance the pair went to Courtney's saloon.

Named. \_\_\_\_\_

At 165 West 136th Street last night it was said that nobody *of the name of* Johnson lived there.

Named. \_\_\_\_\_

The police of this city have arrested a Venetian shoemaker *of the name of* Giuseppe To-

mazio, who is suspected of having been the accomplice of Luccheni, the assassin of the Empress of Austria.

Named. \_\_\_\_\_

A young Frenchman *of the name of* Cauchois has successfully crossed the Straits of Dover, from Dover, in a canoe.

Named. \_\_\_\_\_

A young man *of the name of* Stevens is nearly dead to-day at his home in Spring Valley from an encounter with a bull.

Named. \_\_\_\_\_

His mother, Mary, daughter of James Cogher, was descended from an old Italian family *of the name of* Righi.

Named. \_\_\_\_\_

Here are two examples of the other sort:

Singularly enough, a German woman *by the name of* Helena Böhlman, a convert to Mohammedanism and an inmate of a Turkish harem, has written a novel entitled *Half Animal*, which is in opposition to Midhat's story, being *an* [a] eulogy of Turkish marriage life.—*Literary Digest*.

Named.

Upon the trial he offered to prove by a competent witness that a man *by the name of* John Cline had confessed that he was the guilty party.  
—*New York Sun*.

Named.

This is a locution that the dictionist strenuously objects to. Why use four words when one would better serve?



## COMMENCE

Most careful writers are content—if I do not err—to look on *commence* and *begin* as being absolutely interchangeable, and, as a consequence, seldom, if ever, use *commence*, a word that comes to us from, or at the least through, the French. They prefer the Saxon word *begin* and use it exclusively.

They that would make a distinction—if such there be—between the two words are counselled to consult “Crabb’s English Synonyms.” One will seldom, if ever, be vulnerable to the faultfinder, if one confines oneself to *begin*. In truth, we could dispense with *commence* entirely.

An older man, with a well-developed beard that is *commencing* to get a bit wiry, will frequently exhaust 700 strokes.

Beginning. 

---

At the *commencement* of the war, and at the time of the defeat of the Spanish fleet at Manila,

Spain was the supreme and sovereign authority in the Philippines.

Beginning. \_\_\_\_\_

A passenger conductor must by experience qualify himself for that position; *commencing* as freight brakeman, next as freight conductor.

Beginning. \_\_\_\_\_

We *will* [shall] not *commence* [begin] operating the Broadway line *by* [with] electricity before spring, but we have placed contracts for material to connect the Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue and other East Side lines with the Broadway line, and soon after we *commence* [begin] operations *with* electricity on the Broadway line we *will* [shall] be able to run the cars of these lines as well as those of the Sixth Avenue line right down to South Ferry.

This paragraph tells us that the Broadway line will be run, next spring, *by* the Company *with* electricity.

## A OR AN, WHICH ?

As the American has no difficulty in aspirating his *h*'s, there is no excuse for his dropping the initial *h* in polysyllabic words, though the *h* does not stand under the accent. The truth is, however, that most Americans that use *an* before these *h*'s are not aware that, when they do so, the *h* should be dropped in the utterance, which to that extent is to Cockneyize the language. It's a question of euphony, nothing more; in strictness, grammar has nothing to do with it.

*A* historical, *a* heroic, *a* habitual, is offensive to nobody; whereas *an* historical, *an* heroic, *an* habitual, is offensive to many. And then *a* is American, you know!

Schuck, who is of powerful physique, has *an* hallucination that he is still at the top of the ladder on which he was injured.

A.

"Since then the Congress gatherings," he said, "had shown that a race accused of money grabbing could rise to *an* heroic measure."

A.

---

This lack of German patriotism and of aggressiveness in employing the many superior qualities and acquirements of the Germans is *an* hereditary weakness.

A.

---

That purpose the author endeavors to carry out in *an* historical introduction and in the last four of his nine chapters.

A.

---

"He had," he said, "all his long life been *an* habitual drinker of strong liquors."

A.

---

He indulged in *an* harangue that for violence I never have heard equalled.

A.

## MISCELLANEOUS

He left Fort Resolution for Great Bear Lake in April, hauling his canoes *by* dog teams over the ice of Slave Lake to its outlet.

With.

---

The building will be as high as the law allows. It will be lighted with electricity and heated *by* steam.

With.

---

Another authority averred: "Henry George had little influence; he frightened us *by* the confiscatory features of his plan."

With.

---

Sir Ernest Satow, the British Minister, is suffering *with* [from] pleurisy. While his condition is serious it is not believed to be dangerous.

---

There is no improvement in the condition of General Gaselee, the British commander, who is suffering *with* [from] pneumonia.

Osgood Field, who died in Paris on Thursday after a month's illness *with* [of] pneumonia and complications, was a New Yorker by birth, but had lived abroad for many years.

Perhaps no word in the language is oftener misused than *by*. We often see it where *with* is the proper preposition. Theatres are cooled in summer *with* ice, heated in winter *with* steam, and lighted at all times either *with* gas or electricity, yet their advertisements often tell us that they are cooled *by* ice and so on. They are cooled *by* the management—the agent—*with* ice—the means. We never light our houses *by* candles, cool our wine *by* ice, or sweeten our coffee *by* sugar.

Commonly, it is not difficult to decide what preposition to use, but sometimes the most learned are in doubt. Indeed, the English language offers no greater difficulty than the proper use of the prepositions. It is the last thing the foreigner learns.

---

But the cruelty of the treatment *accorded* new cadets of late years is spread on the records of the court by the admissions of many cadets. Fourth-class men have been exercised to fatigue,

exhaustion, fainting, and convulsions.—*New York Sun*.

The word *accord* is here used in a sense directly opposed to its accepted meaning, which is, To condescend to grant, to vouchsafe. We *accord* only good.

---

Whereupon a most affectionate and cordial welcome was *accorded* the Baroness, and she was invited to pass a long period with them.

---

Prepositions frequently, and sometimes other words, should be repeated where they are not.

I must especially refer to Captain McCalla, of the United States Navy, who was of the greatest value to me and [to] all concerned. He was slightly wounded in three places, and well merits recognition.

---

Never before in the politics of this country or [of] any other [country] have advocates of any political party seeking national control undertaken to commend it to favor by arguing that its triumph would be innocuous.

---

The above figures are sufficient assurance to me and [to] many others that the workingman knows which side his bread is buttered on.

As a rule, the money in institutions for sav-ings in this or [in] any other country is the concrete result of the toil and self-sacrifice of the poor and of those *who* [that] are only moderately well-to-do.

---

Separating *to*, the sign of the infinitive, from its verb is a thing to be avoided.

All Europe, inimical to England, is drawing its own conclusions from the fact that fifteen or at most twenty thousand Boer soldiers have been able *to so long resist* [so long to resist] the combined military resources of the empire.

---

The circumstances in the case of Mr. Pearson, who died in official harness, were to some extent an excuse, but far from a justification, for the precedent *which* [that] the placing of his bust established—a precedent *which* [that] it is better now *to promptly overthrow* [promptly to overthrow] than *to further strengthen* [further to strengthen].—*Home Journal*.

---

For no one *would* [should] we expect *to more clearly* [more clearly to] voice the sentiments of the Cleveland Democracy, save it be Cleveland himself, than Mr. Olney.

---

*To really love* [really to love] the conversion, welfare, and salvation of never-dying souls is *to faithfully and persistently tell* [faithfully and per-



sistently to tell] them not only of the wondrous love of God, but it is also *to fully* [fully to] indoctrinate them respecting hell.—*The Rev. Sillman Blagdon.*

It would seem that with the Reverend Mr. Blagdon, the *matter* is everything, the *manner* nothing.

---

Both Mr. Platt and Mr. Berri believe that Mr. Woodruff should reconsider his decision not *to again* [again to] be the candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

---

But I know that few things could happen *to* so seriously and, in some cases, so disastrously [to] affect the men and women of this country *who* [that] have been able to save enough money to open accounts in the savings banks as the election of William J. Bryan.

Here we have no fewer than eight words between the sign of the infinitive and its verb.

---

We have here an example of a nauseous exudation of the vanity of the player folk that occasionally gets into print.

The leading part of Timmendorf will be *created* by the leading comedian of the Irving Place Theatre, Mr. Gustav von Seyffertitz.

If Herr von Seyffertitz is the "creator" of Timmendorf, what is the author of the play of which Timmendorf is a part? Commonly, very little discretion is allowed these "creators" of parts; they must, as a rule, play as author and stage-manager direct. The Dramatic Mirror never uses *create* as it is used in the sentence above; it uses *originate*, which, however, is not very much better, since there is little difference in the signification of the two words. Until recently, an actor that was the first to play a part was said to be The original so and so. Forrest, for example, was said to be the original Jack Cade; he was never spoken of as having *created* or as having *originated* Jack Cade. To express the thought absolutely, we should have to use the locution, The first to play.

---

To use *either* in the sense of *each* is little better than an affectation.

Two other pages marched on *either* [each] side of him, and each held by the bridle a valuable charger.

---

The fishermen live during the season on small vessels or immense scows fitted with a cabin at

*either* [each] end if their camp is near a swampy shore.

---

Almost every trade has its own street, the shops on *either* [each] side being devoted to shoe-making or harness-making, or crockery-making, in all their different branches.

---

The mob was strung out along on *either* [each] side, shouting, cursing, and every little while making a rush at the Governor's company.

---

Snow is piled up so high on *either* [each] side of the walks that one can not see persons walking on the opposite side of the street.

---

The patriarch of the pack is a dog nine years old, *who* [that] has helped to kill over 200 mountain lions.

---

These *lions*, so-called, of California and the Northwest, like the cougar, the puma, the catamount, and the painter—a corruption of panther—are *panthers*. They might, very properly, be called the American leopard, like which they are, except in color. They and the leopard are tree-climbers, which the lion and the tiger are not. There is nothing leonine about them, except that they, like the lion, are of the cat family.

Indeed, it would not be surprising if a mob were to attempt a rescue. If forty murderers remain *unhung* [unhanged], why should a new murderer be a victim?

He that is lynched is "hung by the neck"; he that is executed judicially is "hanged by the neck."

---

"Well, you had better keep out of the way of each other," said Magistrate Hogan. "I shall discharge the prisoner this time, but my advice to him is that he *leave* [let] his wife alone in the future."

---

But, as a rule, actresses have *left* [let] management alone in this country; and few women not actresses have undertaken the task.

This use of *leave* is indefensible.

---

Lincoln had been practising law on one side of the Wabash River and Thompson on the other and they had many *mutual* [common] friends.—*Chicago Record*.

*Mutual* implies reciprocity of sentiment, sentiment received and returned. Jones and Smith have a *mutual* aversion—they dislike each other—or they are *mutually* dependent—i. e., they depend on each other.

Jones and Smith have a *common* acquaintance in the person Brown. Jones and Smith found two of their *common* friends in the audience. *Common* enmities often cement friendship.

---

The jealousy of England, on the part of both France and Germany, is so bitter that the two nations have almost forgotten that the river Rhine exists. Their *common* hatred of the island kingdom is inspired by the circumstance.—*New York Sun*.

The careless writer would be quite sure to use *mutual* instead of *common* in a sentence such as we have here, yet *mutual* would be indefensible.

---

A *mutual* [common] friend of the married pair stops the elopement and saves the merely foolish woman from becoming criminal.

---

Yet the actress *who* [that], out of character, ought to sit for her picture *most often* [oftenest] with unadorned head, insists *most often* [oftenest] upon wearing for portraiture a hat or [a] bonnet that destroys the future value of her picture.

---

The common origin of such pieces is often demonstrated by analysis or by general appear-

ance, but *more often* [oftener], perhaps, it remains in doubt.

---

Never smoke *upon* [in] a crowded street, in public carriages, or in any other place where it may be offensive at the time or afterward.—*How to Behave.*

We live *in* a street, meet people *in* a street and do things *in* a street, and not *on* or *upon* a street. The man, however, that smokes in the street would be likely to insist that *on the street* is good enough English for him. This is doubly true of the man that smokes a pipe in the street. No man can smoke a pipe in the street and have the appearance of being other than a vulgar fellow. He that does it descends—in his manners—to the level of the groom and the hackman.

---

A knot of people can always be found *on* [in] Broadway looking up at the banner and studying its inscriptions.

---

The presence of the Yale students was made conspicuous by the appearance of hazing parties and their victims *on* [in] the principal streets of the city to-night.

The locution "*on* the street" has a signification in England that deters every one from using it in the sense of "*in* the street."

---

The author of *The Gods, Some Mortals*, and Lord Wickenham never by any chance, it would seem, gets the little word *only* in the right place. Examples:

His eyes *only* directed their gaze [only] on the finest feature of each face, his ears *only* caught [only] the happiest remarks, his heart *only* thrilled [only] at the noble motive in every action.

Beauty is *only* given [only] to few.

*Only*, when used as an adjective, is more frequently misplaced than any other word in the language.

---

Unhappily, they *only* persevered in this excellent resolve for [only] a few days. Within a week their abhorrence of the bottle had disappeared, and they were drinking with a zest that comes of temporary privation.

The right-placing of *only* is commonly a very simple matter.

---

The word *other* is frequently wanting.

Probably more women have fallen in love with Jane Eyre's Rochester than with any [other] man within the pages of a book.

When he returned to the United States in the autumn of 1863 he was at the height of his career. He was then more loved and honored than any [other] man of his day.

---

Here's a genuine romantic actor for you! One *who* [that] really appreciates the value of lines and reads them with more intelligence than any [other] actor on the American boards to-day.

---

The Sun has shown up the tricky document as no [other] paper could do. Let us have a truly American canal or none.

---

Salisbury and Bayard. They congratulate *one another* [each other] upon the signing of the arbitration treaty.—*Headline New York Sun.*

*One another* is properly used only when it is a question of more than two. The headline man of the Sun has long been a bit careless.

---

He may also define how far he and his wife are *to mutually* [mutually to] support *one another* [each other] in cases where assistance is required.

---

There was a time when the speakers at public dinners were supposed to show off. Now they devote their attention to making a show of *each other* [one another].



The expression *fin de siècle* is supposed to sum up in itself a number of peculiarities of the time. This is in spite of the fact that it is *perpetually* [continually] used in a loose and reckless way. —*New York Sun*.

*Perpetual* means never ceasing, continuing without intermission, which is not the thought the writer intended to express. Occurring with interruptions is expressed by *continually*.

---

The preparations for the monster Bryan meeting, when all records of attendance will be broken if Tammany obeys orders, are inspired by Mr. Croker. His teeming brain is never still, he is *perpetually* [continually] on the go.

---

The members of the gang *with which Barrett has worked* are four crooks known to the police as George Willard, "Dan" Algin, "Billy" Burke, and "Micky" Gleeson.

Simpler and more idiomatic, hence better, thus: That Barrett has worked with.

---

The despotism *under which this country is suffering* is worse than confinement in a penitentiary.

The despotism that this country is suffering under; or, simply, The despotism this country is suffering under.

This reminds one of the Hamlet line, "There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so."

It is a mistake to think that neither a sentence nor a clause of a sentence ever should be ended with a preposition.

---

Never mix the languages, if you can avoid it. One language at a time. *Per* is Latin.

The rent of rooms in the college buildings ranges from \$15 to \$80 *per* [a or the] year, and board is procurable in the college hall for \$2.75 *per* [a or the] week.

---

Before the freeze, when the yield was 5,000,000 boxes, they sold at 50 cents *per* [a or the] box, but this year the average price *per* [a or the] box is \$2.

---

A dealer in this city *who* [that] bought coal in Amboy recently finds to-day that he can *purchase* [buy] the same only at an advance of \$1 *per* [a or the] ton. A man *who* [that] bought four consignments of coal from a dealer recently received yesterday an offer of re-purchase at an advance of 50 cents *per* [a or the] ton, the dealer saying that he *would* [should] soon be able to dispose of the coal for \$1 a ton more.

---

The presence of the word *purchase* betrays the tyro. The use of *the* instead of *a* is not common, but the one is quite as correct as the other.

---

When apples are *plenty* [plentiful] and reasonable in price as they are this season.—*New York Sun*.

Dr. Campbell, in his *Philosophy of Rhetoric*, says: "*Plenty* [a noun] for *plentiful* [an adjective] appears to me so gross a vulgarity that I should not have thought it worthy of a place here if I had not sometimes found it in works of considerable merit." The error is more common in America than in England.

---

The masculine rôles in plays predominate largely. Of comely, intelligent, and tolerably facile actresses the supply is far in excess of the demand. Heroes are scarce. Heroines are *plenty* [plentiful].

---

Where the worn coins come from is not known, but the fact that they are so *plenty* [plentiful] has led some persons to believe that they are purchased by weight somewhere.

A special word must be recorded in favor of Mr. Watts's *rendition* [rendering] of the poetry.  
—*New York Home Journal*.

We have authority for using *rendition* as it is used in this example, yet this use of the word does not find favor with our most careful writers. They use the word only in the sense of yielding possession, surrender, thus: They remained till the *rendition* of the fortress.

---

Let him confess, publicly, *over* [under] his signature, the truth that the \$262,000,000 worth of bonds.—*New York Sun*.

“Given under my hand and seal” means under the guarantee of my signature and seal. The position of the signature on the paper has nothing to do with it. We write *under* a date though the date be placed, as it often is, at the bottom of the sheet.

---

Joseph H. Manley, chairman of the Republican State Committee, *over* his signature to-night, issued the following.

Under.

---

Ex-President Cleveland has spoken at last, and in a most emphatic way. He is opposed to Bryan

and Bryanism. He to-day authorized *over* his signature the publication of his views.

Under.

---

That way is to issue to the Democracy of the United States an address, *over* the signatures of the Democratic National Committee.

Under.

---

Here is a common error—an error of omission. The preposition should have been repeated.

The chrysanthemum seems to have recovered from the partial disfavor *into which it fell* [it fell into] last year, and to be once more flourishing in popular fashion. There is a tide in the affairs of flowers as well as [of] men.

---

Transpire is frequently used in the sense of to occur; to happen; to come to pass; whereas it should be used only in the sense of to leak out; to become known. Here is a good example of the correct use of the word:

“Do angels ever come back and pay the money they owe?” she asked. It *transpired* that this particular angel owed the child \$5.

Reliable information about the real extent of the plague in Bombay and *the* vicinity is lacking.  
—*New York Sun*.

We commonly see *its* vicinity, but *the* vicinity is equally correct. Supply the elliptical words and we have, "In Bombay and in the vicinity of Bombay."

---

M. Leroy Beaulieu is sanguine enough to *anticipate* that this alliance would not remain purely economical.

Here is a use of *anticipate* that should be cast in brass and kept as a dictional curiosity. *Predict* would probably have served the writer's purpose; but very likely in his judgment, *predict* was not fine enough.

---

Alvord, the notorious bank robber, pleaded guilty yesterday. It is curious to note the aggrieved air *adopted* by the prisoner. You would think that it was a case of the *culprit* [culprit's] being more sinned against than sinning. It shows that when one is a criminal it is well to be a big *one* [criminal].—*New York Evening Sun*.

We do not *adopt* airs, we *assume* them. Neither word is necessary. "The ag-

grieved air of the prisoner" would suffice.

---

The close student of the life of Samuel Richardson does not think of him as a novelist *alone* [only]. He was a business man who had a considerable eye for material enterprises. This fact is recalled by the disappearance of *an* [a] historic house of his, the building in Salisbury Square, London, which he built for himself in 1754.

We could not say, The student does not think of him *alone* as a novelist. *Alone* and *only*, we see, are not interchangeable.

---

In an interview in the Pittsburg Dispatch of yesterday morning, Mr. Carnegie said, in substance, that the real reason for the Carnegie Company [Company's] taking up the making of steel pipe *was* [is] because it wanted to. He said that the reason it *had* [has] been decided to have the plant at Conneaut *was* [is] because the railroads running into Pittsburg *had* [have] been charging altogether too high freight rates. The only way to get rid of the railroads and their rates, Mr. Carnegie said, *was* [is] for his company to take to water.

---

The Columbia oarsmen begin the year in excellent *financial* [pecuniary or monetary] condition. If the university shows the same sort of

improvement on the water that it *displayed* [showed] on the football field, all will be well.

---

It was fortunate for us that nothing happened to him *in* the circumstances.

Quite correct, but not very common. The French always write *in* the circumstances.

---

*Balance* is often improperly used in the sense of *rest* or *remainder*. Not the *balance* of the stock, but the *rest* or the *remainder* of the stock. The word means, when properly used, *the excess of one thing over another*, as the difference between the debits and the credits.

The *balance* of the officers of the university were either doubtful, non-committal, or their views could not be ascertained.

The rest.

---

Shades of my grandmother! Perhaps they would take me! *As though* I were an outcast, whose faults might be forgiven if I promised to be good!

As if. The locution "as though" is very common, but it never says what the writer really intends to say.



Their object seems to be to try *and* bring about an awakening among the younger people of India.

Not try *and*, but try *to* bring.

---

We follow a negative with *so*, not with *as*.

However good Alderman Bridges's poetry may be, it is not half *as* [so] interesting or picturesque as his prose.

---

There is no train in England *as* [so] luxurious as the Pennsylvania Limited and none *as* [so] fast as the Empire State Express. As regards the advantage in speed, it may be said that the hauls in the United States are longer, distances between stations are greater, and the tracks not *as* [so] crowded.

---

Use the verb in the infinitive, when that form is permissible.

It looks as if a great many of Governor Odell's views *would* [will] be embodied in legislation. Many statesmen have ideas, but few have the happiness *of seeing* them take a concrete shape.

To see.

---

Clauses are often much misplaced. Here is an example: The queen-mother had ex-

hausted the treasures Sully had amassed *in bribes to the princes*. Not so. The queen-mother had exhausted, *in bribes to the princes*, the treasures amassed by Sully.

---

Look to your clauses, or you may some day unwittingly advertise for "a coachman to look after a pair of horses of a religious turn of mind." Or you may advertise "a splendid gray horse, calculated for a charger, or would carry a lady with a switch tail."

---

"Son-in-law of mine, too," groaned the old gentleman. "As bright a young fellow as I ever *knew* [have known]. I loved him as *though* [if] he *were* [had been] my own flesh and blood."

"You always [have] told me that he *was* [is] a veritable Napoleon of finance."

"And so he is," and the old gentleman made [an] attempt to laugh. "And I [have] encouraged him in it. I must admit that I [have] literally drummed it into him that business *was* [is] business and that sentiment, friendship, even relationship, *had* [have] to be put aside when it *came* [comes] to business."

"But what has he done? Nothing criminal?"

"Taken me at my word, the world would say. I'm going to retire. I'm out, frozen out. You know the factory I have my biggest investment in?"

"Certainly. It is coining money, and your salary as president is \$20,000."

Here the old gentleman groaned again.

"I took a vacation. What more natural than that my son-in-law should vote my stock? I gave him authority to *do so* [vote it]. He elected himself president, chose his own board of directors, and increased the salary of *his position* [the president] \$5,000 *per annum* [a year]. I'm simply turned out to pasture. My, what a boy!"  
—*Detroit Free Press*.

---

We all know what tipping is. It is a vile, foreign practice *which* [that] has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished. It destroys the self-respect of him *who* gives and him *who* takes. It stamps the one as a coward and the other as a sort of blackmailer.

It blesseth him *that* gives and him *that* takes.—*Shakespeare*.

---

The subject is one of such tremendous importance to Americans that the fullest consideration will unquestionably be given to it by business men *who* are alive to the broad and epoch-making developments of the day.—*Dry Goods Economist*.

Are all business men alive, or are only a part of them alive? There being no comma before *who*, the sentence says only a part.



If there were a comma before *who*, the sentence would say all business men are alive, in which case we should think the meaning doubtful. The meaning, then, depends on the presence or the absence of a comma, a thing that often owes its presence or its absence to the compositor. If the relative *that* instead of *who* had been used, the meaning would not have depended on a comma, though a comma should never be put before a relative pronoun that introduces a restrictive clause. We sometimes see commas that properly *stand* before restrictive relatives, but they have been put *after* a parenthetic clause and not *before* the relative.

---

The religious communities, *which* have incidentally involved the common ownership of property and have employed their members in production for the benefit of a commonwealth, have become rich.

This sentence says that all religious communities are co-operative, which we know is not true. No comma and *that* and the sentence would say what it was intended to say.

Lizards, snakes, and grasshoppers, which live in the sand, are gray or brown, while their brethren of the trees and grass are green.—*New York Sun*.

The first ten words of this sentence tell us that all lizards, snakes, and grasshoppers live in the sand; while the remainder of the sentence tells us that some lizards, snakes, and grasshoppers live in trees and grass.

---


Not content with destroying the Teutonic peoples, *which* had already settled on Roman soil, Justinian intrigued with the tribes that were still north of the Danube, and fomented their quarrels.

This sentence begins by saying that all the Teutonic peoples had settled on Roman soil, which we see by the last half of the sentence was not true.

---

The men *that* have shown themselves as masters of prose are not, for the most part, the men *that* are widely read and the men *that* are most widely read owe many millions of readers to something else than their mastery of prose form.—*Prof. Thomas R. Price*.

Here is a writer that introduces his restrictive clauses with *that*.



## WHY USE *THAT* TO INTRODUCE RESTRICTIVE CLAUSES?

NOTE.—This essay, to be understood, must be carefully studied. Simply reading it will not suffice.

Owing to the indiscriminate, haphazard use of the relative pronouns that almost universally prevails, there is never, probably, a newspaper, and rarely a book, printed in the English language in which there are not ambiguous sentences; and yet this ambiguity can be easily avoided, as we see if we give the subject a little attention.

So long as we continue to use the relative pronouns indiscriminately, the meaning of all but one of the following six sentences—which are all grammatically and idiomatically correct—and of all like sentences, will be doubtful:

I. These are the master's rules, who must be obeyed.

2. These are the rules of the master, who must be obeyed.

3. These are the rules of the master, that must be obeyed.

4. These are the rules of the master, which must be obeyed.

5. These are the master's rules, which must be obeyed.

6. These are the master's rules, that must be obeyed.

Nos. 1 and 2 should mean : These are the rules of the master, and he must be obeyed ; but they may mean : These are the rules of a certain one of several masters, and this one is the one we must obey.

No. 3 may mean: Of the master's rules, these are the ones that must be obeyed. It may also mean: Of several masters, these are the rules of the one whose rules must be obeyed.

Nos. 4 and 5 may mean: These are the rules of the master, and they must be obeyed; or they may mean: Of the rules of the master, these are the ones that must be obeyed.

*That* is properly the *restrictive relative*

pronoun, and *which* and *who* are properly the *co-ordinating relative* pronouns. *That*, when properly used, introduces something without which the antecedent *is not fully defined*, whereas *which* and *who*, when properly used, introduce *a new fact* concerning the antecedent.

Whenever a clause restricts, limits, defines, qualifies the antecedent—i. e., whenever it is adjectival, explanatory, in its functions—it should be introduced with the relative pronoun *that*, and not with *which*, nor with *who* or *whom*.

The use of *that* solely to introduce restrictive clauses, and *who* and *which* solely to introduce co-ordinating clauses, avoids ambiguities that must occasionally come of using the relative pronouns indiscriminately. This clearly appears from the following examples:

“I met the watchman *who* showed me the way.” Does this mean, “I met the watchman and he showed me the way”? or does it mean that, of several watchmen I met, the one that on some previous occasion showed me the way? It should mean the former, and it would mean that and



nothing else, if we discriminated in using *who* and *that*.

“And fools *who* came to scoff remained to pray.” Does the familiar line from Goldsmith mean, And the fools that came, though they came to scoff, remained to pray? or does it mean that some of the fools that came, came to scoff, and these remained to pray? Probably the former is the meaning; but as the line stands, this, no matter how general the opinion, can be only conjectured, as every one must admit that the meaning intended may be the latter. If the latter is the meaning, it is clear that the proper relative to use is *that*. Had, however, Goldsmith never used *who*, except to introduce co-ordination, we should know positively just what he intended to convey.

“It is requested that all members of Council *who* are also members of the Lands Committee will assemble in the Council room.” Does this mean that all the members of the Council are also members of the Lands Committee, and that they shall assemble? or does it mean that *such* members of Council as are also members of the Lands Committee shall assemble?

"The volume is recommended to all geologists *to whom* the Secondary rocks of England are a subject of interest." Is the volume recommended to *all* geologists, or to *such only* as take an interest in Secondary rocks?

"He had commuted the sentence of the Circassian officers *who* had conspired against Arabi Bey and his fellow-ministers—a proceeding which [that] naturally incensed the so-called Egyptian party." Did all the Circassian officers conspire, or only a part of them?

"On the ground floor of the hotel there are three parlors *which* are never used." Does this mean three of the parlors on the ground floor are not used? or does it mean the three parlors on the ground floor are not used? The latter is probably the meaning intended, but as there is no comma after *parlors*, the former, using the relatives indiscriminately as we do, is the meaning expressed.

"Emin Bey, the chief, *who* leaped the wall on horseback and landed safely on the *débris* below, was afterward taken into favor." Here the language and the punc-

tuation convey the impression that Emin Bey was the sole chief, when in fact he was only one of the many chiefs that were present on the occasion referred to. The thought intended is expressed thus: "Emin Bey, the chief *that* leaped the wall, . . . was afterward taken into favor."

"His conduct surprised his English friends *who* had not known him long." Does this mean *all* his English friends, or only those of them that had not known him long? If the former is the meaning, then *who* is the proper relative to use with a comma; if the latter, then *that* should be used, without a comma.

"Agents of the Turkish Government are trying to close the Protestant schools in Asia Minor, *which* are conducted by missionaries from the United States." Are the Turks trying to close all the Protestant schools in Asia Minor, or only a part of them? All, according to this statement; but that is probably not what is intended, as there are doubtless Protestant schools in Asia Minor that are not conducted by missionaries from the United States.

"The police captains *who* yesterday vis-

ited the central office to draw their pay, all expressed their sympathy," etc. Did all the police captains visit the central office, or only a part of them?

"The youngest boy *who* has learned to dance is James." As long as we use *who* for the purposes of both *restriction* and *co-ordination*, this means either, "The youngest boy is James, *and he* has learned to dance," or, "Of the boys, the youngest that has learned to dance is James." If the latter is the meaning, then *that* should have been used; if the former, then *who* is correctly used, but the co-ordinate clause should have been isolated with commas.

*Who* and *which* are the proper *co-ordinating* relatives—i. e., the relatives to use when the antecedent is completely expressed without the help of the clause introduced with the relative. Thus: "The society now numbers nearly twenty members, *who* (= and they) have given up all family ties and devoted themselves entirely to religious work." "The choir consists of about sixty men and boys, *who* are surpliced." "But some of their friends, *who* (= persons that)

are wealthy and influential members of the church, did not like to have them give up their work in Boston, *which* had been attended with great results, and urged them to return, *which* they have consented to do, and they will soon begin work anew at the old church, *which* is the property of the Society of St. John the Evangelist."

Here are some examples of the correct use of *who*, *which*, *that*, and *whom*: "The heirs, *who* are very numerous, will be present"—i. e., all the heirs. "The heirs, *who* have been notified, will be present"—i. e., all the heirs. "The heirs *that* have been notified will be present"—i. e., only those notified. "The heirs, *whom* I have seen, will be present"—i. e., all the heirs. "The heirs *that* I have seen will be present"—i. e., only those seen. "I study grammar, *which* I like very much." "Give me the grammar *that* lies on the desk." "He struck the man *who*"—i. e., a certain man—"had done him no harm." "He struck the man *that*"—i. e., a man of several men—"insulted him." "He struck the wrong man—the one *that* had done him no harm." "Our house, *which* is built of brick, is very

warm." "The house *that* is built of brick is the warmest." "The cat"—i. e., the species—"which you so dislike is a useful animal." "The cat"—i. e., the individual—"that you so dislike is a very pretty one." "He jumped into the water, *which* greatly frightened his mother." "He attends to his own affairs, *which* is the way to make them prosper." "He *that* attends to his own affairs is likely to see them prosper." "The man *that* I saw is tall." "This man, *whom* I know well, is a good ploughman." "He *that* lets the sun go down on his wrath," etc.

In the following examples the errors in the use of the relatives are corrected in brackets: "The rich despise those *who* [that] flatter too much, and hate those *who* [that] do not flatter at all." "An ambitious man *whom* [that] you can serve will often aid you to rise," etc. "He *that* feeds many serveth few; he serveth all *who* [that] dares be true." "The curious inquirer *who* [that] sets himself," etc. "This book has been made for those *who* [that] aim to have," etc. "The people *who* [that] are expecting, under the new code . . . The

people will not consent, under a Government *which* [that] depends upon their will, to adopt the Sabbatarian notions *which* [that] the old Puritans . . . Yet there are some narrow minds in New York *who* [that] still think . . . They have no sympathy with those *who* [that] would force . . . Then there are the Jews, *who* do not feel . . . and *who* claim the right to work or play on Sunday . . . The population would be sunk in gloom, *which* would of course," etc.

It is necessary, for the proper understanding of *which*, to advert to its peculiar function of referring to a whole clause as the antecedent: "William ran along the top of the wall, *which* alarmed his mother very much." The antecedent is obviously not the noun "wall," but the fact expressed by the entire clause—"William ran," etc. "He by no means wants sense, *which* only serves to aggravate his former folly"; namely, (not "sense," but) the circumstance "that he does not want sense." "He is neither overexalted by prosperity nor too much depressed by misfortune, *which* you must allow marks a great mind." "We

have done many things *which* we ought not to have done ” might mean “ we ought not *to have done many things* ”—that is, “ we ought to have done few things.” *That* would give the exact sense intended: “ We have done many things *that* we ought not to have done.” *That* is much more frequently used instead of *who* as a restrictive relative than will be at first supposed. As evidence of this I offer a sentence that I find in a London cablegram to a New York newspaper: “ It was he *that* moved the adjournment until Tuesday.” This, in my judgment, is better and more idiomatic English than it would have been had the writer used *who* instead of *that*.

Occasionally, but by no means often, we meet with a *that* that should be *which*. Here are two such *whiches*:

Across the Straits of Fuca there is the pretty English town of Victoria *that* [which] has as solid mansions, etc.

The Strait or Gulf of Georgia, *that* [which] separates Vancouver Island from the mainland, although, etc.

There is not, as some of the unthinking seem to believe, any valid objection to using



two *thats* in immediate succession, as in the utterance they are widely different. Thus used, they are not at all disturbing, not at all tautophonic. Two successive *thats* are tautophonic to the eye only. The demonstrative *that* always has its full name sound, while the other *that*, be it a conjunction or a relative, is barely touched; thus, "I say th't THAT book is old." "Where is THAT th't I gave you?" Indeed, three successive *thats* are not at all disturbing—e. g., "They, therefore, that treat of these subjects more boldly, venture to say th't THAT th't is base is the only evil."

Who is *that that* dares to address the court?  
—*Dickens*.

---

We must next allude to the cases where the relative is governed by a preposition. We can use a preposition before *who* (in the objective case *whom*) and *which*, but when the relative is *that* the preposition must be thrown to the end of the clause. *Owing to an imperfect appreciation of the genius of our language, offence was taken at this usage by some of our leading writers at the beginning of last century, and to this circumstance we must refer the disuse of that as the relative of restriction.*—*Bain's Grammar*.

*That* can not be preceded by a preposition, and hence throws the preposition to the end. "This is the rule *that* I adhere to." *This is perfectly good English, though sometimes unnecessarily avoided.*—Abbott's *How to Write Clearly*.

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In every other language the preposition is almost constantly prefixed to the noun which [that] it governs; in English it is sometimes placed not only after the noun, but at a considerable distance from it, as in the following example: "The infirmary was, indeed, never so full as on this day, *which* I was at some loss to account *for*." Here no fewer than seven words intervene between the relative *which* and the preposition *for* belonging to it. One would imagine, to consider the matter abstractly, that this could not fail in a language like ours, which admits so few inflections, to create obscurity. Yet this is seldom, if ever, the consequence. Indeed, the singularity of the idiom hath made some critics condemn it absolutely. That there is nothing analogous in any known tongue, ancient or modern, hath appeared to them a sufficient reason. *I own it never appeared so to me.*—Dr. Campbell's *Rhetoric*.

---

The constant placing of the preposition before the relative tends to make a writer's style turgid, ponderous—sometimes, in fact, almost unidiomatic. It makes one's dic-

tion differ too widely from the diction of every-day life, which is the diction much the best suited to many kinds of composition.

The following examples, taken from Massinger's *Grand Duke of Florence*, will show what was the usage of the Elizabethan writers:

For I must use the freedom *I was born with*.

---

In that dumb rhetoric *which you make use of*.

---

. . . if I had been heir  
Of all the globes and sceptres mankind *bows to*.

---

. . . the name of friend  
*Which* you are pleased to *grace me with*.

---

. . . wilfully ignorant, in my opinion,  
Of what it did *invite him to*.

---

I look to her as on a princess  
*I dare not be ambitious of*.

---

. . . a duty  
*That I was born with*.

So in Shakespeare, to take an example out of many:

To have no screen between the part he played  
And him he *played it for*.

---

Why, there is not a single sentence in this play *that* I do not know the meaning *of*.—*Adison*.

---

Originality is a thing we constantly clamor *for* and constantly quarrel *with*.—*Carlyle*.

It will be observed that the relative, when it is the object, is often omitted.

"It was not one *with which* he could find fault"; better, "One he could find fault *with*."

"It will be a joy *to which* I have looked forward with hope"; better, "A joy *that* I have looked forward to with hope."

"You are the first one *to whom* I have unburdened my mind"; better, "First one I have unburdened my mind *to*."

"The man *to whom* I refer"; better, "The man I refer *to*."

"Don't whip with a switch *that* has the leaves *on* if you want to tingle."—*Beecher*.  
How much of its idiomatic terseness this

sentence would lose if changed to, "Don't whip with a switch *on which* there are leaves," or *on which* the leaves remain, or *from which* the leaves have not been removed!

The more thought one gives to the matter the more one will be inclined, I think, to discriminate in the use of the relative pronouns, and the less one will be opposed to that construction that puts the governing preposition at the end.—*From the Verbalist.*

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